

# **SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA**

**Suspension of the Rules Request  
ALC/Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER)  
Subcommittee  
Monday, September 13, 2021  
9:00 a.m. - Room A, MAC**

- A. American Rescue Plan Appropriation Requests
  - 1. Department of Human Services - Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education - Essential Worker Child Care
  - 2. Department of Human Services - Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education - Sub-grants, Supply Building, and Administrative Costs



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
**Department of Finance  
and Administration**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
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September 8, 2021

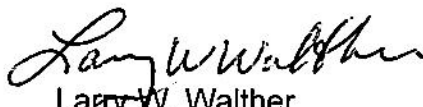
Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair  
Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair  
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Supplemental Items

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request suspension of the rules by the committee for review of the items listed on the attached page. These items were received after the deadline for submission to your Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Committee, but we are requesting inclusion in this month's review.

Sincerely,

  
Larry W. Walther  
Secretary



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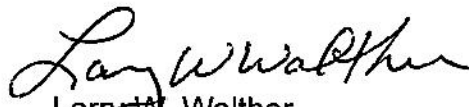
RE: FY 22 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 38 (01) of Act 997 of 2021, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

- Department of Human Services – Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Child Care Development – Essential Worker Child Care, TEACH Scholarship Program, and Administrative Costs \$174,000,000
- Department of Human Services – Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education – Sub-grants, Supply Building, and Administrative Costs \$286,085,126

Sincerely,

  
Larry W. Walther  
Secretary

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
SECTION 38 OF ACT 997 OF 2021**

Agency: DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Business Area Code: 0710  
 Program Title: Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)  
 Granting Organization: Administration for Children and Families CFDA #: 93.575  
 Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2021 Ending: 6/30/2022

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
 The purpose of the ARPA Child Care Supplemental funds is to provide child care for essential worker families without regard to income (up to \$1 million), expand access to high quality child care/early childhood education by providing opportunities for building high quality workforce - TEACH scholarships, data systems to support access to child care portal for families to search for child care in real time, and administrative costs associated with implementing these funds.

**American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding**

Func. Area: HHS Fund Code: FRP7132 Direct Funding: X  
 Funds Center: \_\_\_\_\_ Internal Order/WBS Element: \_\_\_\_\_ Steering Comm. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	4,000,000
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	170,000,000
Other:	
Other:	
<b>Total</b>	\$ <b>174,000,000</b>

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 09/30/2024

Minghua Li 9/8/2021  
 DFA IGS State Technology Planning Date  
 Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

Positions to be established: (list each position separately)

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Commt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by:  
Tom Williams 9/11/21 John Kim 9-8-21  
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date  
Quiana Taylor 9-2-21 JM 9/3/2021  
 on behalf of Cindy Gillespie

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
SECTION 38 OF ACT 997 OF 2021**

Agency: DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Business Area Code: 0710  
 Program Title: Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)  
 Granting Organization: Administration for Children and Families CFDA #: 93.575  
 Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2021 Ending: 6/30/2022

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
 The purpose of the ARPA Child Care Stabilization funds is to provide grant resources to child care and early childhood programs. For programs licensed by March 11, 2021 for operational costs, improving quality, and start-up for programs which would like to expand in areas of need - rural infant, toddler and school age care, second/third shift hours of operation and partnering with essential business (health care, education, food supply chain, manufacturing, and sanitation) to provide on-site child care. Ten percent may be used for administrative costs.

**American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding**

Func. Area: HHS Fund Code: FRP7131 Direct Funding: X  
 Funds Center: \_\_\_\_\_ Internal Order/WBS Element: \_\_\_\_\_ Steering Comm. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	3,000,000
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	283,085,126
Other:	
Other:	
<b>Total</b>	\$ <b>286,085,126</b>

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/30/2023

Minghua Li 9/8/2021

**DFA IGS State Technology Planning Date**  
 Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)**

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Comnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by: [Signature] 9/1/21 [Signature] 7-8-21  
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date  
[Signature] 9-2-21 [Signature] 9/3/21

2021

# DCCECE American Rescue Plan Act Proposal



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## 1 Introduction

**DCCECE American Rescue Plan Act Proposal Overview.** DCCECE has carefully considered the items necessary to stabilize and perpetuate a healthy early childhood education mixed delivery system in the state of Arkansas. The DCCECE American Rescue Plan proposal was created with a collaborative and integrated approach considering comments from early childhood education providers, contracted partners, early childhood associations, and reviewing previous needs assessments, cost modeling, and strategic planning efforts. Additionally, DCCECE reviewed *COVID-19 & Arkansas's Early Education Workforce: Summarizing surveys on the effects of the pandemic* to better understand and prepare for the changing landscape of early care and education following the public health emergency. As a result, DCCECE determined the following categories of need:

### (1) Stabilization Funds

- a. Subgrant Payments - \$258m
  - i. Operational
  - ii. Quality Improvement
  - iii. Child Care Expansion
- b. Supply Building - \$25m

### (2) Supplemental Discretionary Funds

- a. Essential Worker Child Care – \$130m
- b. TEACH Scholarship Program – \$40m

### (3) Administrative

- a. Stabilization- \$3m
- b. Supplemental Discretionary- \$8m

### (4) **Total Funding - \$464m**

**NOTE:** All subgrant activities listed must go through an application process.

## 2 Stabilization Funds

**Federal Requirements Overview<sup>1</sup>.** Lead agencies must spend 90% stabilization funds as subgrants to qualified child care providers to support the stability of the child care sector during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency. States and territories may spend up to 10% of the child care stabilization funds for the five categories of administrative, supply-building, and technical assistance.

DCCECE proposes to use Stabilization funding in the following categories:

- Subgrants (Operational, Quality Improvement, and Expansion)
- Supply Building
- Administrative

### 2.1 Stabilization Subgrants– Subgrant

**\$258 million**

#### 2.1.1 Proposed Stabilization Subgrant Timeline

Facilities will be eligible to apply each time the application is open. However, funding may be prioritized based on need. The proposed timeline below highlights alternating application submission and processing timeframes.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/occ/CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-02.pdf>



## 2.1.2 Operational Payments Subgrant

**Hardship in the Child Care Sector.** According to three Arkansas specific COVID-19 child care studies, early care and education program staff are experiencing high levels of stress, staff onboarding and retention issues, lost revenue, and they are struggling to maintain health/safety standards. According to the UAMS-RED study, just over a third of administrators stated staff had been laid off during the COVID-19 pandemic with an average of 57% of staff being laid off<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, 58% of respondents on the SRI Project ARISE study stated a major worry for their program was the potential for lost income due to the pandemic<sup>2</sup>. Operational payments for programs are necessary to stabilize the sector and minimize the number of permanent closures.

**Operational Payments Proposal.** Arkansas proposes to use stabilization subgrant funding to support the early care and education sector by way of covering a portion operational expenses dating back to March 2020. Operational subgrant payments will be used to cover expenses associated with remaining open or sustaining a viable business during the COVID public health emergency. Funding amounts were determined by reviewing the *2019 Arkansas Child Care Market Price Study* and the national “Provider Cost of Quality” calculator. Examples of operational expenses include (but are not limited to):

- Professional Development on Health/Safety
- Minor renovations
- Payroll or Bonuses
- Bills (including expenses associated with a program audit)
- Health/Safety Items (UV Viral Filters, Air Purifiers, PPE, etc.)
- New or Updated Security Systems (Cameras, electronic locks, electronic sign-in/out, etc.)
- Cover Past Losses associated with COVID-19
- Mental Health Services for Children or Employee

**Table 1:** Operational Payments Subgrant Amount Chart

Care Type	Capacity	Subgrant Amount per Application
Registered Family Home	5	\$2,500
Licensed Family Home	10	\$5,000
	11-16	\$10,000
Child Care Center	<50	\$17,500
	51-100	\$25,000
	101-150	\$32,500
	151-200	\$40,000
	200+	\$47,500
Out of School Time	<50	\$10,000
	51-100	\$15,000
	101-150	\$20,000
	151-200	\$25,000
	200+	\$30,000

<sup>2</sup> McKelvey, L., Forsman, A. (2021) *COVID-19 & Arkansas’s Early Education Workforce: Summarizing surveys on the effects of the pandemic.*

### 2.1.3 Quality Improvement Subgrant

**Importance of Quality.** Over the last several decades there has been a large conglomerate of research conducted regarding the importance of high-quality, well-funded, early childhood educational institutions. This was demonstrated strongly by Heckman and Karapakula’s *The Perry Preschoolers at Late Midlife: A study in design-specific inference* published in 2019<sup>3</sup> which showcased the lifelong positive impacts high-quality early childhood education had on crime rates, education, and employment of the involved children. The children were statistically less likely to commit crimes, had higher levels of education, and were more likely to have obtained meaningful gainful employment. In addition, it was shown that quality early childhood education resulted in “stronger families and significantly contributed to the upward mobility in the next generation” and should be seen as a means to “break the cycle of poverty”<sup>2</sup>. A 2009 study of the Perry Preschool found an estimated return on investment between \$7 and \$12 per every \$1 invested in the high-quality preschool environment<sup>4</sup>.

In 2004, Arkansas began laying the foundation towards creating a tiered quality rating improvement system (TQRIS) after noting the importance of and a renewed commitment to expanding high-quality care and education in the state.

**Arkansas’s TQRIS.** As a result of more than 5 years of committee meetings and gaining buy-in from early childhood care and education providers, Arkansas Better Beginnings<sup>5</sup> (or AR Better Beginnings) was founded. AR Better Beginnings was established as a result of a federal State Maternal and Child Health Care Grant and is available to all licensed child care providers in the state of Arkansas. The system is designed to help programs improve their environment for children and establish proven administrative practices. AR Better Beginnings promotes and addresses the quality of education of care of children in the following content areas:

- Administration and Staff
- Child Development and Assessment
- Educational Learning Environment and Environmental Assessments
- Child Health and Safety
- Family and Community Engagement

In Arkansas, the TQRIS is a “building block” approach which means each program must meet all the requirements at one level before moving to the next. Arkansas currently has 4 levels in their TQRIS structure (see Table 2).

**Table 2:** AR Better Beginnings

Level	Overview
0	Program is brand new and on a provisional license and/or program needs additional visits from child care licensing to establish they meet minimum licensing requirements
1	Meets minimum licensing requirements <sup>6</sup>
2	Meets all guidelines for level 1 plus additional certifications in administration and a program review is completed by a Program Administration Scale (PAS) assessor, 20 hours of professional development annually for staff, clearly defined interest centers (minimum of 2), and a minimum of a 3.00 out of 7.00 on the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS).
3	Meets all guidelines for level 2 plus a 4.00 or higher on the Program Administration Scale (PAS), 25 hours of professional development annually for staff, clearly defined interest centers (minimum of 3), and a minimum of 4.00 out of 7.00 on the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS).

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.nber.org/system/files/working\\_papers/w25888/w25888.pdf](https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w25888/w25888.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.impact.upenn.edu/early-childhood-toolkit/why-invest/what-is-the-return-on-investment/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://arbetterbeginnings.com/sites/default/files/pdf\\_files/2020%20Revised%20Rule%20Book.pdf](https://arbetterbeginnings.com/sites/default/files/pdf_files/2020%20Revised%20Rule%20Book.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Child Care Center: <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020-CCC-Clean-Copy.pdf>

Child Care Family Home: <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020-CCFH-Clean-Copy.pdf>

Registered Family Home: <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020-RCCFH-Clean-Copy.pdf>

Out of School Time: <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020-OST-Clean-Copy.pdf>

As of June 15, 2021, Arkansas has 1928 active child care licenses. Of those, only 34% of programs had been awarded the highest level of quality compared to 58% of programs at level one or lower. Therefore, it is a necessary endeavor to increase the overall quality level of child care facilities in the state to stabilize the child care sector and support long term positive outcomes for children and to bolster the future prosperity of Arkansas.

**Quality Improvement Proposal.** Arkansas proposes use stabilization subgrant funding to support existing early childhood education programs in obtaining a higher level of AR Better Beginnings by funding the program operations and resources necessary to do so. Subgrant amounts will be awarded based on the number of enrolled children (see Table 3). Eligible subgrant amounts were determined based on a cost analysis of the materials, equipment, staff, professional development, and other costs associated with moving up 1 level in Better Beginnings.

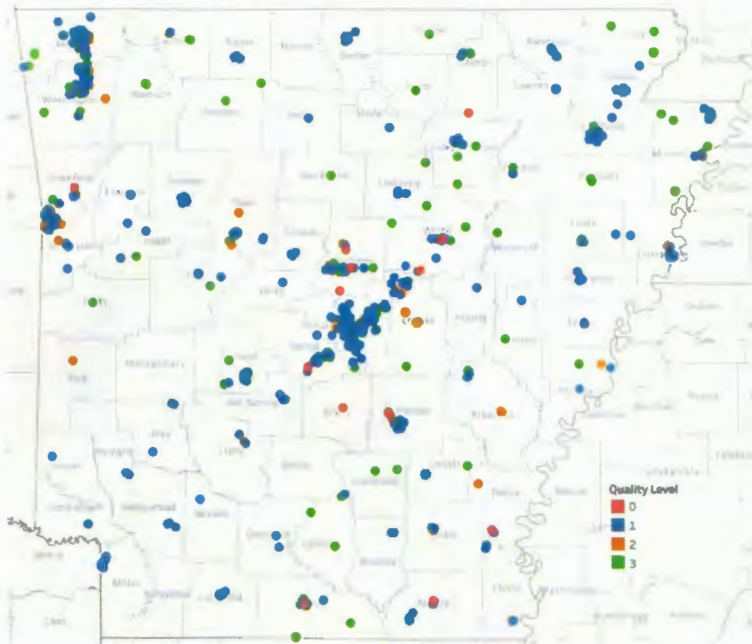
Arkansas set a previously established goal of July 2020 for all programs receiving CCDF voucher funding to become level 2 or higher; however, due to the COVID 19 pandemic this goal was ultimately pushed back to July 2022. Facilities did not have the time, funding, or resources necessary to move forward in achieving quality as a direct result of COVID-19. DCCECE proposes to remove the funding and resource barriers by allowing programs to submit subgrant applications for the amount necessary to obtain a higher level of Better Beginnings.

**Table 3:** Classroom Quality Improvement Subgrant Amount Chart

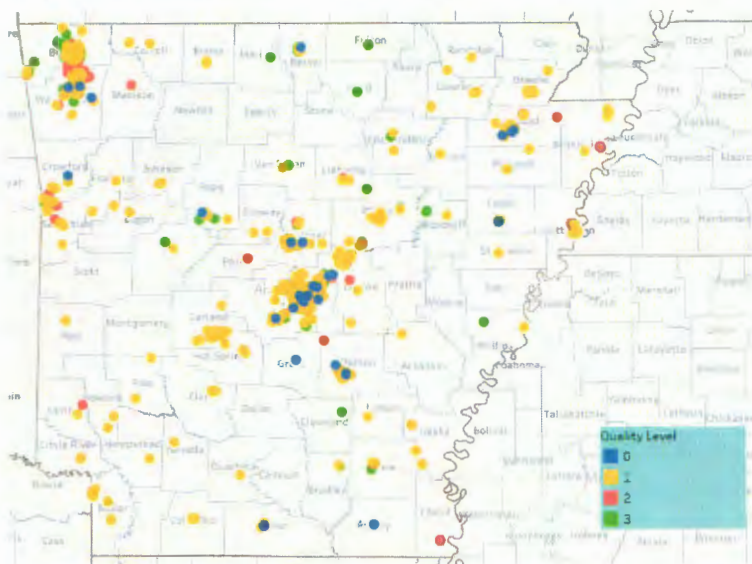
Care Type/Capacity	Amount per child (based on current enrollment)
Infant/Toddler/Preschool < 100	\$1500.00
School Aged <100	\$750.00
Infant/Toddler/Preschool 101-200	\$1250.00
School Aged 101-200	\$625.00
Infant/Toddler/Preschool 201+	\$1000.00
School Aged 201+	\$500.00

### 2.1.4 Child Care Expansion Subgrant

**Child Care Deserts in Arkansas.** Arkansas has a need for additional high-quality infant/toddler and school aged slots (See Figures 1 and 2). At present, Arkansas has 13 counties with 60 infant/toddler (I/T) slots or less (including 2 counties with 0). Additionally, Arkansas has 42 counties with 60 school aged (SA) slots or less. According to the Centers for American Progress, 35% of all Arkansans live in what is considered a “child care desert”<sup>7</sup>. A “child care desert” is defined as “areas or communities with limited or no access to quality child care”<sup>8</sup>. To address this gap, DCCECE is proposing a two-pronged approach to address this growing concern by expanding current programs to allow for greater access and building the supply by adding additional facilities (See Supply Building). It is imperative that Arkansas’s child care landscape adapt to the growing and evolving needs of families.



**Figure 1: Infant/Toddler Facilities by Quality and Availability**



**Figure 2: School Aged Facilities by Quality and Availability**

**Child Care Expansion Proposal.** DCCECE proposes to provide subgrants to support the expansion of currently licensed programs with emphasis in rural areas to build capacity for high-quality infant/toddler and school aged care. Subgrant amounts were set based on the nationally established “Provider Cost of Quality Calculator”<sup>9</sup> and *2019 Arkansas Child Care Market Price Study*<sup>10</sup> (see Table 4).

While Arkansas did not have a net loss of early childhood education facilities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it became apparent the gaps in capacity for infant/toddler and school aged care as families were trying to find care to continue working in their essential fields. DCCECE proposes to award funding via a subgrant application process to any currently licensed facility in good standing seeking to expand their capacity. This funding seeks to close the gap and stabilize the child care sector moving forward to allow families to continue to or go back to work. Funding can be used to cover costs tied to operational start-up and expansion. Funding is also available to encourage providers to partner with local businesses to expand or open facilities to provide additional access to the essential workforce in Arkansas.

Applications will be prioritized by the following areas of focus: (1) Child Care Deserts, (2) Infant/Toddler/School Aged Care, (3) Essential Business Partnerships, (4) Non-Traditional Care Hours, and (5) CCDF Participants.

<sup>7</sup> <https://childcaredeserts.org/2018/?state=AR>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Child-Care-Deserts-report-FINAL2.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/pccq>

<sup>10</sup> [https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/AR\\_2019\\_Market\\_Price\\_Study\\_ReviewDraft.pdf](https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/AR_2019_Market_Price_Study_ReviewDraft.pdf)



### 3 Supplemental Discretionary Funds

**Federal Requirements Overview.** Lead Agencies may use Supplemental Discretionary Funds for any activity allowable under the Child Care Development Block Grant Act and Child Care Development Fund regulations. These activities are not restricted to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Lead Agencies may elect to (1) expand access to high-quality care, (2) expand access to child care assistance via Essential Worker Child Care, (3) offer mental health supports, or (4) conduct outreach on the availability of child care assistance. Additionally, states and territories may spend up to 5% of supplemental discretionary funds on administrative costs.

DCCECE proposes to use Supplemental Discretionary funding in the following categories:

- Essential Worker Child Care
- TEACH Scholarship Program
- Administrative

#### 3.1 Essential Worker Child Care

**\$130 million**

**Essential Worker Child Care Overview.** Since May 2020, DCCECE has received over 14,000 Essential Worker Child Care Applications and has approved nearly 10,500 (see Table 5). Essential Worker Child Care is available to families in the following categories:

- Emergency Responder
- Health Care
- Manufacturing
- Sanitation
- Public Health
- Child Care/Education
- Food Supply Chain
- Other (case by case basis)

**Table 5:** Essential Worker Application Breakdown

Category	Amount Received (as of 07/23/2021)
Emergency Responder	2,151
Health Care	5,374
Manufacturing	1,354
Sanitation	188
Public Health	852
Child Care/Education	3,190
Food Supply Chain	1,222
Total	14,331

Essential Worker Child Care allowed many Arkansas families to stay employed during the COVID-19 emergency and was a vital part of Arkansas's pandemic response.

**Essential Worker Child Care Proposal.** DCCECE proposes to use \$130 million dollars of Supplemental Discretionary Funding to extend Essential Worker Child Care (including new applications) through September 30, 2024 or until funding has been exhausted. This would dually provide Arkansas families with child care and early care and education providers with a stable source of revenue as they recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Importance of Qualified Educators.** An educator is at the center of a child’s early learning experience as many children spend up to 50 hours per week in their care. As such, it is imperative the teacher in the classroom create a high-quality environment. Research shows that “positive relationships between children and their caregivers” is an integral part of healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development<sup>11</sup>. Arkansas has the capacity to serve over 167,000 children in licensed child care settings.

**TEACH Overview<sup>12</sup>.** The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Early Childhood Arkansas Scholarship Program is a nationally approved TEACH organization. TEACH provides the opportunity to any full time early childhood teacher who would like to attend an approved in-state college or university to enroll in coursework in Early Childhood Education. Scholarships are awarded based on need and commitment to the Early Childhood Education field. TEACH Early Childhood Arkansas pays for 90% of tuition and books, provides travel each semester, reimburses the child care facility for release time, and provides bonuses to teachers who complete their contract. As scholarship recipients, teachers must attend class and successfully complete 9-15 semester hours during the contract year towards a certificate, credential, degree, or endorsement in early childhood education. Teachers are expected to contribute 5% of the cost of tuition and 10% of the cost of books. The employer-sponsor contributes 5% of the cost of tuition and 10% of the cost of books each semester. As part of the TEACH contract, teachers must promise to continue to teach at their current sponsoring institution for another year in return for a salary increase or bonus.

Currently, TEACH Early Childhood Arkansas has agreements with the following institutions (see Table 6). However, the TEACH program is actively seeking additional higher education institutions to partner with.

**Table 6:** TEACH Higher Education Partnership Institutions

Institution	County
Arkansas State University – Beebe	White
Northwest Arkansas Community College	Benton
University of Arkansas Community College – Batesville	Independence
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith	Sebastian
University of Arkansas at Monticello – College of Technology	Drew
University of Arkansas Community College – Morrilton	Conway
University of Arkansas – Phillips Community College	Phillips
University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College	Pulaski

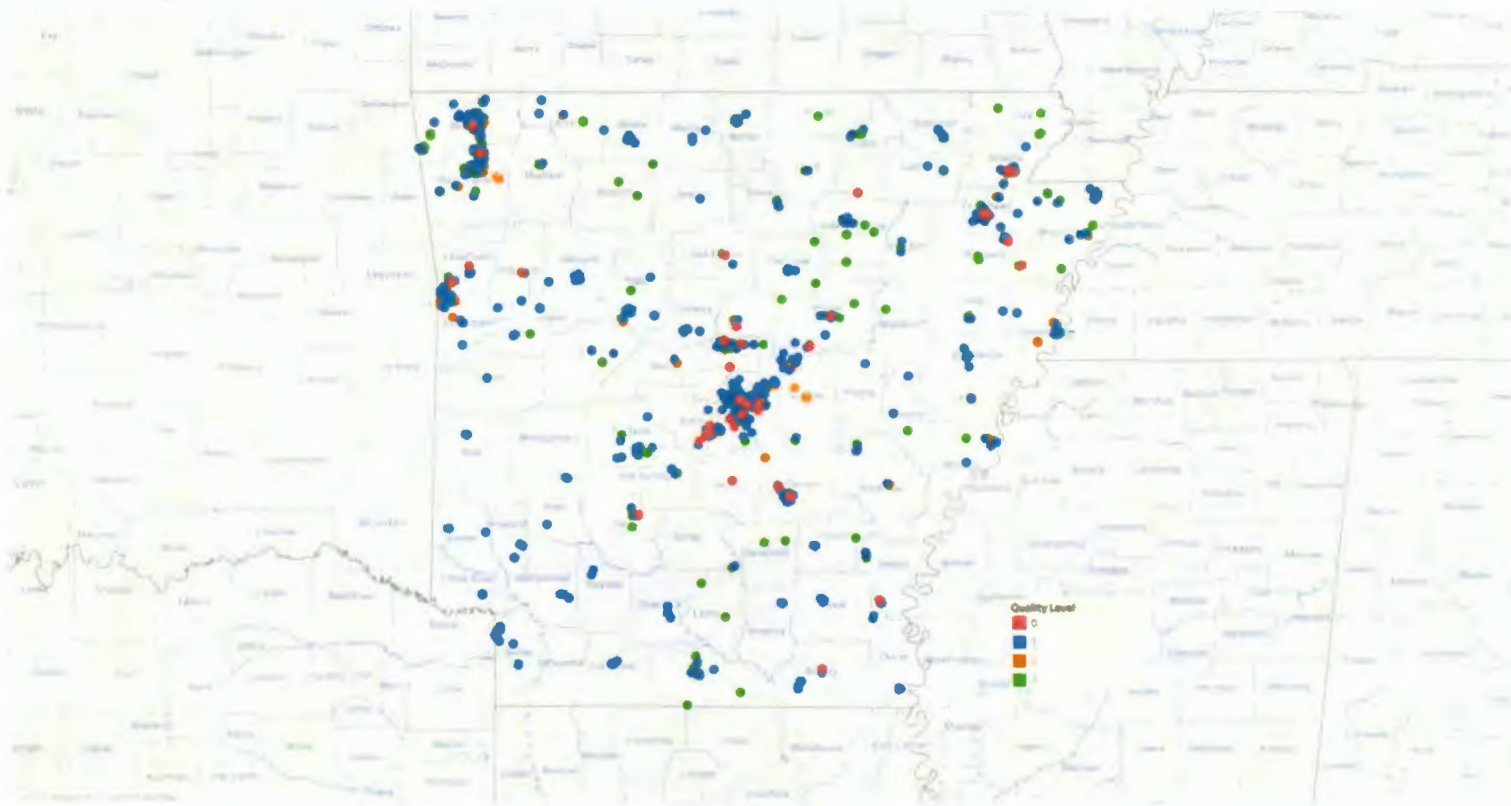
**TEACH Scholarship Program Proposal.** Arkansas proposes to allocate \$40 million of the Supplemental Discretionary Funds to expand the previously established TEACH Arkansas Scholarship Program and allow up to 4,000 full time early childhood teachers the opportunity to obtain a credential, degree, or certificate. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many educators had to suspend their efforts to obtain college credits in early childhood education due to financial hardships, safety, or other burdens. DCCECE proposes to assist the early childhood education workforce move forward in pursuing higher education following the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/building-a-qualified-and-supported-early-care-and-education-workforce.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> <https://arkansasearlychildhood.org/teach/>

# Infant Toddler Facilities

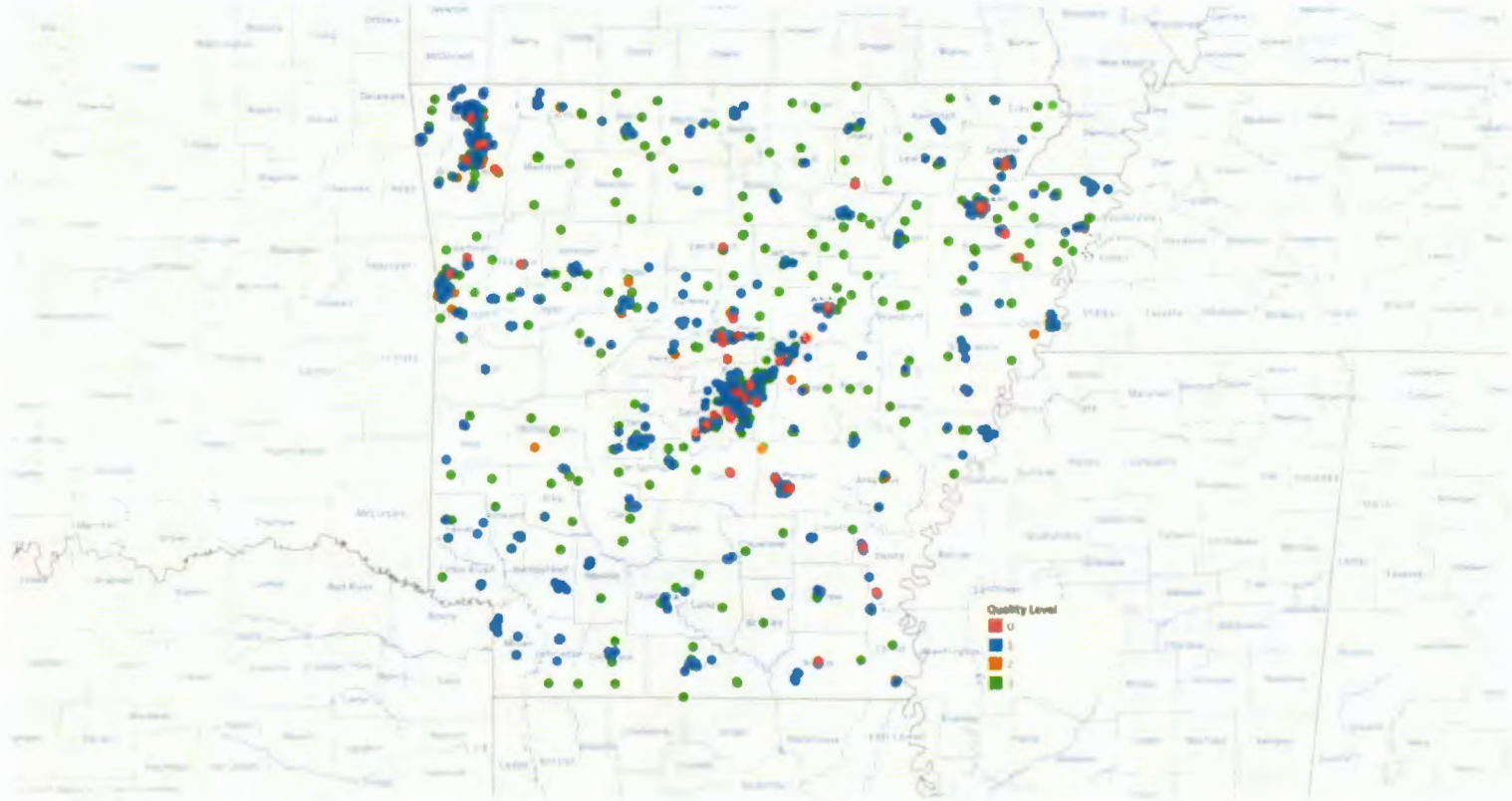
All I/T Facilities by Location





# Preschool Facilities

All PS Facilities by Location



# School Age Facilities

