

**LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD LEAD ORGANIZATIONS
2023-2024
Pilot Year, Cohort One**

The LEARNS Act calls for a local early childhood lead for each community in Arkansas. These leads will work in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Office of Early Childhood to ensure all children are prepared to enter Kindergarten. ADE received a large number of applications for the first cohort and had limited spots. There will be a request for applications in 2024 for a second cohort, and the applications that were not funded will be reconsidered.

Local Lead	Catchment Area
Arkansas State University, Child Care Aware	Chicot and Desha counties
Child Care Aware of Northwest Arkansas	Benton County
City of Little Rock	Little Rock
Dawson Education Cooperative	Clark County
DeQueen Mena Education Service Cooperative	Montgomery, Polk, Howard, Sevier, and Little River counties
IMPACT Independence County Foundation's Excel by Eight Collaborative	Independence County
National Park College, Child Care Aware of West Central Arkansas	Garland and Saline counties
Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative	Lawrence, Randolph, Clay, and Greene counties
Ozarks Unlimited Resources Education Service Cooperative	Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Johnson, Newton, and Searcy counties
Russellville School District	Pope County
South Central Service Cooperative	Ouachita and Calhoun counties
Springdale School District	Springdale School District

