SHORTCHANGED

PRELIMINARY DATA

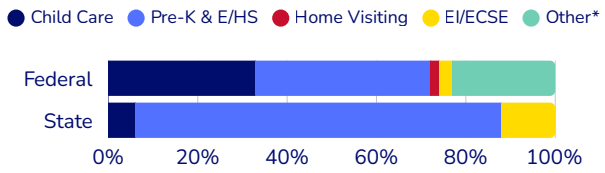
Arkansas 2024

For every dollar spent on school-aged students in Arkansas, $0.15 was spent on infants and toddlers, and $0.27 on preschool-aged children.

Arkansas invested over **$470 million** in early care and education in 2024. Of these investments in birth to kindergarten-entry:

- **39%** supported infants and toddlers, and **61%** supported children aged three to kindergarten-entry.
- **70%** came from federal sources, and **30%** came from state funds.

ECE Spending by Program Type

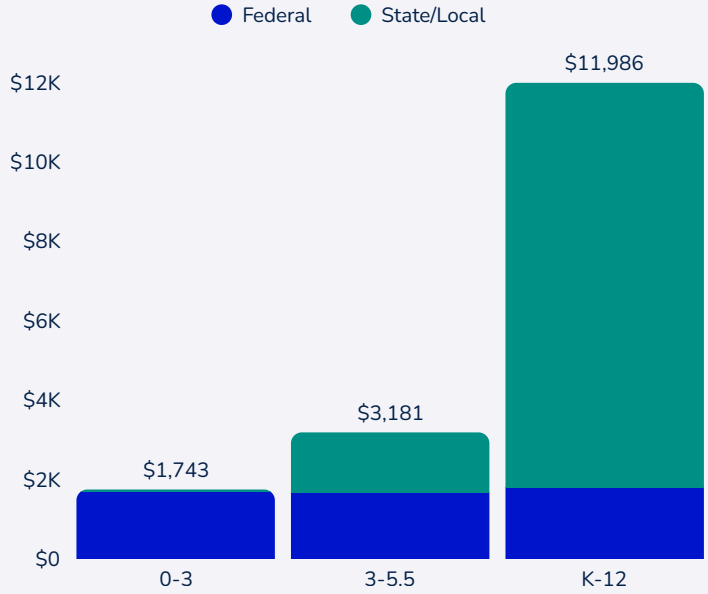


Between 2023 and 2024, Arkansas decreased state-specific spending on children from birth through kindergarten-entry by more than $53 million.

In 2024, Arkansas supported early care and education through dedicated programs such as the Arkansas Better Chance Program and Early Childhood Special Education. Continued investments will be reflected in future reports.

**Other federal funding includes the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS).*

Per Capita Spending by Age Group



Arkansas's ECE Investment Rankings

Rankings reflect state/local per capita investment in ECE compared to state/local per capita investment in K-12.

#26 /50 in 0-5.5

#50 /50 in 0-3

#16 /50 in 3-5.5

Rankings are subject to change as new data becomes available.

Children in Arkansas by Age Group

0-3	3-5.5	School-Aged
106k	89k	524k

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Arkansas 2024

Total Funding by Spending Category and Age

Category	Nationally Reported Federal Dollars	State and Local Dollars	Nationally Reported Federal + State Dollars			
			0- 3	3-5.5	K-12	Total
Child Care	$135,151,599	$9,783,770	$61,447,998	$54,254,710	$29,232,661	$144,935,369
State Preschool/ Early Education	$-	$115,274,454	$-	$115,274,454	$-	$115,274,454
Home Visiting/ Parent Education	$8,095,910	$-	$6,962,482	$1,133,427	$-	$8,095,910
Early Intervention/ PreK Special Ed	$10,738,681	$16,897,920	$4,834,253	$22,802,348	$-	$27,636,601
Other 0 to 3 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
Other 3 to 5.5 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
Other 0 to 5.5 Expenditures	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
K - 12 Expenditures	$907,119,754	$5,334,795,792	$-	$-	$6,241,915,546	$6,241,915,546
Other Federal Funding Streams	$214,625,748	$-	$112,427,140	$91,628,803	$10,569,805	$214,625,748
Total	$1,275,731,692	$5,476,751,936	$185,671,873	$285,093,742	$6,281,718,013	$6,752,483,628

Help us get this right.

We rely on partners and state experts to ensure our data is accurate. If something here needs a correction, please reach out: **svanvalkenburgh@niu.edu**

Scan or click the QR code to learn more about The Shortchanged Project.

Center for Early Learning Funding Equity
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY