

\$103.5 M  
Arkansas General  
Revenue

\$7.5 M  
TANF

Public School Fund  
(Distinct Fund)  
\$111 M Total

### Budget Breakdown: DHS Operation

1.8% - 2.0 % for Operations

Remaining funds to:

1) Existing ABC Programs

- Center-Based School Districts
- Community Organizations
- Private Providers
- Faith-Based Providers
- Home Visiting (HIPPY)

2) ABC Partners (Largely federally funded)

- Save the Children in Partnership with Head Start
- Easter Seals, etc.

Periodic Contributions To Arkansas  
Pre-K Programs & Initiatives

Walton Family Foundation  
\$20+ Million

Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation  
\$10+ Million

Additional & Potential Funding Sources  
For Arkansas Pre-K Programs

60-40 % Local Match

Federal Grants Programs

Private Grants Title I Funds

NSL State Categorical Funds

## What is IT? AND What is it NOT?

### **We are not advocating universal pre-K**

- We support fully funding the current program
- We support funding consistent high quality
- We support making the current program whole again
- No one here is talking about expansion

### **We are talking about voluntary, not mandatory pre-K**

### **We do not support raising the poverty eligibility threshold to 300 percent**

### **We do support adding to the current \$111 million investment in Arkansas' pre-K ABC Program**

### **We do applaud the Governor's decision to increase annual funding by \$3 million**

### **We do support building partnerships, a case, and a coalition for adding funding to the Governor's proposal**

### **We do see a flexible solution evolving that can fortify multiple programs from multiple funding sources, such as:**

- Federal funding such as Head Start, Grants, Title I (ESSA), and TANF
- State funding such as ABC and NSL funding matched by school districts
- Corporate and/or private donations

## Why is ForwARd doing this?

### **An investment in pre-K is critical to moving the needle on the vision and strategic goal of ForwARd**

### **That means ForwARd is investing its voice and resources in improving capacity and raising quality standards that include areas such as:**

- Increasing teacher salaries
- Improving teacher credentials
- Administering quality professional development
- Incentivizing innovation and best practice in high-need areas in ways such as:
  - o Improved transportation
  - o Pilot programs to better align with the Better Beginnings Rating System for Program Quality
  - o An independent evaluation to work with providers to assess student performance and to determine a quality, aligned assessment for preschool through 2nd grade