




OUR MISSION

The mission of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families is to ensure that all children and their families have the resources and opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives and to realize their full potential. We:

-  Serve as a voice for children at the Arkansas State Capitol and in Washington, D.C.
-  Gather and analyze data to support public policy that serves all children and families.
-  Organize coalitions of diverse groups to drive change.

THANK YOU




to all funders whose generous investment in our work helps us serve children and families in Arkansas.

If you would like to make a donation, please visit our website at aradvocates.org/donate.

To view a list of 2024 donors, visit our website at aradvocates.org/donors.



Learn more at www.aradvocates.org

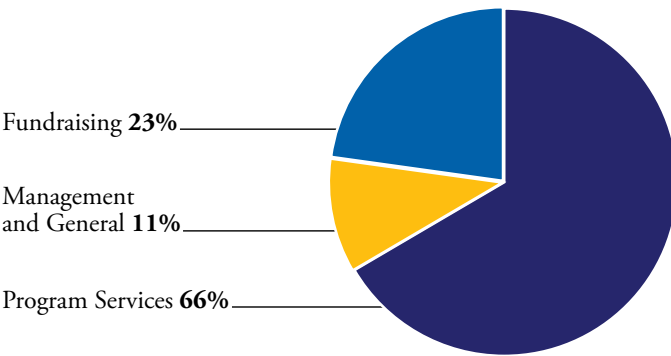
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2024 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

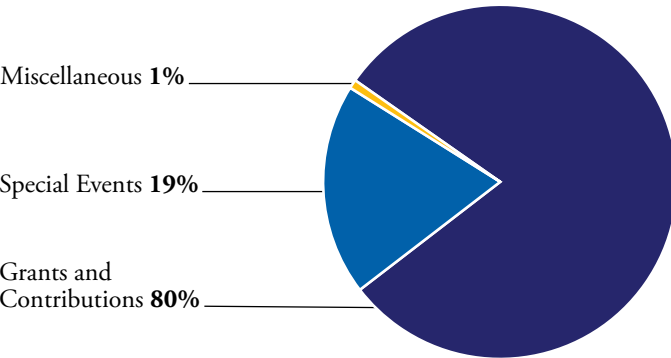
Total Revenue & Support.....	\$2,441,144
Total Expenses.....	\$2,462,189
Decrease in Net Assets without Donor Restriction	(\$21,045)
Increase in Net Assets with Donor Restriction.....	\$5,571
Decrease in Total Net Assets	(\$15,474)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$2,811,416
Net Assets, End of Year.....	\$2,795,942

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
From audited financials prepared by Landmark PLC

EXPENSES



TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT



SOUP SUNDAY



chairs:
Ellen & Nathan Coulter–Central Arkansas
Jessica & Clint Schaff–Northwest Arkansas

winners:
Central Arkansas Golden Ladle: 1st–Youth Home, 2nd–AFROBITES, 3rd–It’s Time to Eat!
Northwest Arkansas Golden Ladle: 1st–Embassy Suites, 2nd–Bar Cleeta/Big Lieutenant, 3rd–Conifer
Northwest Arkansas People’s Choice: 1st–Early Bird Catering, 2nd–Bar Cleeta/Big Lieutenant, 3rd–Golden Tongs Catering



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



2024 AACF HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, we helped Arkansans engage on issues that matter to their communities. From town hall meetings to coffee with local candidates, we hosted 36 community events around the state and online, with more than 1,000 attendees. We also:

- Made 34 presentations to groups around the state
- Attended or hosted 38 coalition meetings
- Produced a 20-part video series, Advocacy 101, published on our YouTube page

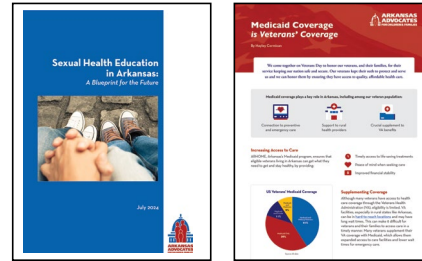
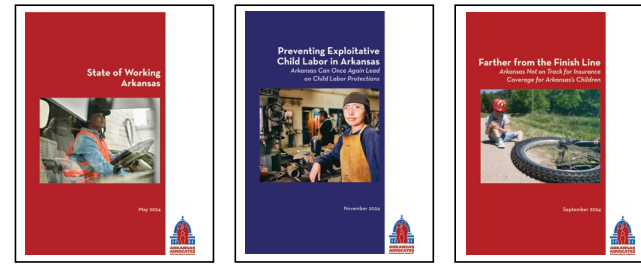
Community Engagement Director Rebecca Zimmermann shares tips for advocacy in a video series.



STORYTELLING

Our storytelling efforts elevated the voices of Medicaid beneficiaries and deepened our partnerships with the Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese, Arkansas Community Organizations, and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel. In 2024, we collected 94 stories from people across the state!

One of the most impactful stories we shared was that of Maya, a Little Rock resident who gave birth to twin boys prematurely at 25 weeks due to liver and gall bladder issues. Weeks later, even before her original due date, the state transitioned her Medicaid coverage without her knowledge. Maya's story gained widespread attention and was shared by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and *KFF Health News*, along with airing on NPR Morning Edition.



RESEARCH

A key part of our work is researching issues facing Arkansas's children and families and recommending evidence-based policy solutions. Here are a few things we learned and reported on in 2024:

- Arkansas has witnessed a 266% increase in the number of child labor violations identified by the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing over the past few years.
- In 2023 approximately 94,000 of Arkansas's children lost their Medicaid health insurance coverage.
- As other states have more effectively lowered their teen birth rates, Arkansas has remained stuck at or near the bottom.
- Income inequality is on the rise in Arkansas and across the nation. Median wages for the top 10% in Arkansas grew 2.4 times faster than wages for typical workers from 2010 to 2022.
- The uninsurance rate for veterans in Arkansas dropped from 14.8% to 8.2% within the first two years following Medicaid expansion – the second largest coverage gain for veterans across all Medicaid expansion states.

AACF's Northwest Arkansas Director Laura Kellams met with Arkansas Senator John Boozman about food security.



ADVOCACY

In 2024, President Joe Biden signed a government funding bill that included a legislative fix that Marshallese Arkansans, alongside anti-hunger activists and AACF, fought to pass for more than two decades: restoration of their eligibility for SNAP and other safety-net programs. This new law will undoubtedly reduce hunger and economic insecurity in the Pacific Islander community, which has the highest poverty rate in Arkansas.

We led advocacy efforts in a special session to oppose tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest and shrank our state budget.

AACF was a leading voice for maternal and infant health in Arkansas in 2024. AACF was represented in the Arkansas Strategic Committee for Maternal Health, advocating for recommendations, including implementing presumptive eligibility for Medicaid-eligible pregnant women and 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage. AACF also advocated for Medicaid reimbursement for doulas and community health workers. In our conversations with the Arkansas Department of Human Services, DHS was equally interested in presumptive eligibility, stating they planned to pursue implementation of the policy.



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN LUNCHEON

At our 2024 Friends of Children Annual Luncheon, we honored Arkansas Senator Linda Chesterfield and Our House Executive Director Ben Goodwin for their work improving the lives of Arkansas's children. We also paid special tribute to Judge Wiley Branton, Jr. (1951-2023). With more than 400 attendees, we raised \$51,703 for AACF.



(Left) 2024 Friends of Children honorees Ben Goodwin and Sen. Linda Chesterfield with AACF Executive Director Keesa Smith-Brantley.



(Below) AACF staff at the Annual Luncheon.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Annual unrestricted funding gives AACF the flexibility to work on new and emerging issues as they arise. It also provides more resources for building coalitions, hosting outreach events around the state to recruit new advocates and lobbying on behalf of children at the state Capitol. Your support positions us to be even more effective advocates for Arkansas's families.