

CAREER PATHWAYS OVERVIEW AND OUTCOMES

The Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative is a comprehensive project designed to improve the earnings and postsecondary education attainment of Arkansas's low-income Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)-eligible adults. The initiative provides funding for two-year colleges to develop career pathways programs that assist TANF-eligible adults to earn a marketable, educational credential for immediate entry into a high-demand occupation. Career Pathways is program focusing on the needs of the very high-risk student. Low income, dependent children, and often remedial needs make the Career Pathways student more vulnerable to dropping out.

The initiative emphasizes such program components as job readiness skills, basic academic skills preparation/remediation, and post-secondary credentials tied to high-wage, high-demand occupations. Intensive student services are provided for students in the program. The initiative fosters strong connections among two-year colleges, students, community organizations, state agencies, and employers.

SERVICES

- Assessment
- Academic Advising
- Academic Skills Support
- Career Exploration
- Counseling
- Orientation
- Social Skills Support
- Enrollment and Retention Manager
- Financial Aid
- Transportation
- Child Care

ELIGIBILITY

To enroll in the Arkansas Career Pathways Program, you must qualify to receive benefits. Basic eligibility requirements include:

- Custodial or noncustodial parents of a dependent child residing in Arkansas and under the age of 21, and whose income is less than 250% of FPL. This includes custodial and noncustodial parents, parents who are justice-involved (currently or previously incarcerated), or minor parents who are not head of household.
- Current (or former) TEA, SNAP, Medicaid or ArKids whose income is less than or equal to 250% of FPL guidelines.

FPL Example:

Family of 3 at 250% of poverty level=\$62,150.00

To enroll in the Arkansas Career Pathways Program, you must qualify to receive benefits. Basic eligibility requirements include:

- Custodial or noncustodial parents of a dependent child residing in Arkansas and under the age of 21, and whose income is less than 250% of FPL. This includes custodial and noncustodial parents, parents who are justice-involved (currently or previously incarcerated), or minor parents who are not head of household.
- Current (or former) TEA, SNAP, Medicaid or ArKids whose income is less than or equal to 250% of FPL guidelines.

FPL Example:

Family of 3 at 250% of poverty level=\$62,150.00

FY24 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINES			
Family Size	100%	150%	250%
1	\$14,580	\$21,870	\$36,450
2	\$19,720	\$29,580	\$49,300
3	\$24,860	\$37,290	\$62,150
4	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$75,000
5	\$35,140	\$52,710	\$87,850
6	\$40,280	\$60,420	\$100,700
7	\$45,420	\$68,130	\$113,550
8	\$50,560	\$75,840	\$126,400
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person.			

CAREER PATHWAYS OUTCOMES

	Enrollment	Completers		Attainments		Entered Employment	
2020	195	75	38.46%	105	53.8%	51	68.00%
2021	163	37	22.6%	69	42.3%	31	83.78%
2022	164	71	43.2%	60	36.5%	56	78.87%
2023	178	61	34.2%	58	32.5%	48	78.68%
2024	178	54	30.33%	61	34.2%	46	85.18%
2025	159	40	25.15%	56	35.2%	36	90.00%
Note: a student may acquire an attainment without completing.							

Of those who completed, those entering employment was very high. Typical of community colleges, attainments can make a student more employable; however, completion increases the likelihood of a student gaining employment.

CAREER PATHWAY GOAL FOR 2025-28 ACADEMIC YEARS

Increase the completion rate of students by 10% ($338/1,037=32.59\%=33\%$ is the completion rate average from 2020-25. The completion rate will be increased by 10% or to an average of 43% over three years.