

The ESA Roadmap: Empowering Residents Through Specialized Support

Objective: To provide group home residents with high-quality, state-funded tutoring and leadership development at zero out-of-pocket cost to the facility or the family.

Step 1: Determine Eligibility

Every student residing in an Arizona group home (on a DD/foster track or otherwise meeting state criteria) is likely eligible for the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA).

- 1 **Action:** Audit resident files to identify students not currently utilizing ESA funds.
- 2 **Goal:** Shift from restrictive district funding to flexible ESA funding.

Step 2: The Application Process

The application is handled through the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) website.

- 1 **Timeline:** Applications are typically processed within 30 days.
- 2 **Documentation:** You will need proof of residency and a birth certificate for the student.
- 3 **Tip:** Group home staff can assist legal guardians or state caseworkers in completing this 15-minute digital form.

Step 3: Account Setup & ClassWallet

Once approved, funds are managed through ClassWallet, the state's secure online payment portal.

- 1 **Action:** Log in to the ClassWallet portal once the ESA contract is signed.
- 2 **Benefit:** No personal or facility funds are ever exchanged; all payments are handled directly between the state and the vendor.

Step 4: Selecting Approved Vendor Services

This is where the resident's growth plan begins. ESA funds are specifically allocated for:

- 1 **Academic Tutoring:** Targeted support for core subjects, GED prep, or remedial reading/math.
- 2 **Extracurricular & Leadership (Boxing Leadership):** Building discipline, physical fitness, and emotional regulation through structured boxing and mentorship programs.

Step 5: Scheduling and Implementation

- 1 **We Come to You:** Services are provided on-site at the group home or a nearby community space.
- 2 **Reporting:** Monthly progress reports are provided to track student engagement and developmental milestones.

Why Partner with an ESA Approved Vendor?

- 1 **Compliance:** We handle the invoicing through ClassWallet to ensure all spending meets ADE guidelines.

- 2 **Customization:** Programs are tailored to the specific behavioral and academic needs of youth in congregate care.
- 3 **Cost-Neutral:** Our services are paid 100% by the ESA scholarship.

Ready to start? Let's identify which residents qualify this week so we can begin the enrollment process.