In 2000, the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program began serving 4-year-olds using a mixture of state, federal, and local funding sources. The local contribution for these programs is particularly notable, as localities are required to provide matching funds totaling at least 50 percent of the state funding amount for each program. Programs are operated by schools, private child care centers, child care management agencies, Head Start providers, universities, and housing authorities. There are no set eligibility criteria, and in 2002–2003, programs were offered in 63 out of the state's 67 counties. All 4-year-olds who live in these counties are eligible to participate.

Administrators of the Alabama Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program are particularly proud of the program's efforts to raise awareness of the need for—and quality of—prekindergarten programs across the state.