



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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June 5, 2020

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund Release Request(s)

Dear Co-Chairs:

I am forwarding for the recommendation of the Arkansas Legislative Council, the attached COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund Release Request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

Sincerely,


Larry W. Walther
Cabinet Secretary

LWW

Attachment(s)



Southern Arkansas University

Office of the President

April 16, 2020

Representative Lane Jean
Joint Budget Committee
Arkansas House of Representatives

Representative Jean,

I am writing to you to express a dire need for Southern Arkansas University. The largest Cooling Tower on campus is thirty-five years old and it is truly about to cease functioning. On any other year, our campus could find a way to secure the funds for this purchase, but the as you are aware, the COVID-19 crisis has brought enormous budget cuts to SAU.

Please consider our request for **\$495,000** for an **Evapco Cooling Tower** for a water-cooled chiller. This tower cools a significant portion of our north campus and it is vital to functions of the University. I will be happy to answer any questions that you or Governor Hutchinson may have concerning this piece of important equipment and its role on our campus.

Very sincerely,

Trey Berry, Ph.D.



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June 3, 2020

Larry Walther, Secretary
 Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
 1509 W. 7th St., Rm. 401
 Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Secretary Walther:

On behalf of the Department of Human Services, I respectfully request a release of Covid-19 Rainy-Day Funds for the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) programs. These programs provide a needed alternative to jail for individual program who are suffering a mental health crisis and are behaving in a way that appears to be threatening others. The pilot programs are in Craighead, Pulaski Sebastian and Washington counties. These local resources allow police officers an alternative option to holding an individual overnight in jail. At these CSU's staff are trained to stabilize and then assess what is best for the person. The CSUs may provide services in excess of 24 hours, but not more than 96 hours during an episode.

Recognizing the hardship significantly reducing of funds would have on the operations plans of these pilot programs the agency is requesting appropriation and rainy-day funds in the amount of \$2,036,000. Requested funding will allow the programs to be reimbursed for actual and projected expenditures through June 30, 2020.

Funding for these pilot programs have relied on a combination rainy-day, agency carry-forward and "B category" state general revenue. Recent reductions and lower forecasts for FY21 state general revenue for next fiscal year threatens the continuing operation of these pilots.

If this request is approved estimated reimbursement for this state fiscal year will be allocated in the following manner:

- Craighead County	\$532,000
- Pulaski County	\$532,000
- Washington Cuntly	\$532,000
- Sebastian County	<u>\$440,000</u>
Total	\$2,036,000

Thank you for your assistance. Please feel free to call me if you need additional information to support this request.

Sincerely,

Cindy Gillespie, Secretary
 Arkansas Department of Human Services