



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

**D**  
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February 10, 2023

Senator Justin Boyd, Co-Chair  
Representative Roger Lynch, Co-Chair  
PEER Subcommittee  
Joint Budget Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 37 (01) of Act 199 of 2022, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

- Department of Human Services – Division of County Operations – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Administration Expenses \$3,863,905
- Department of Human Services – Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health – Additional Position Request \$0

Sincerely,

  
Larry Walther  
Secretary

Attachment(s)

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022**

Agency: DHS - Division of County Operations Business Area Code: 0710

Program Title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) State Admin Expenses Funding ARPA 2021

Granting Organization: USDA - Food and Nutrition Services CFDA #: 10.561

Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 10/1/2022 Ending: 6/30/2023

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (Include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
The DHS Division of County Operations requests appropriation for any expenses associated with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and will comply with the requirements of Act 199 of 2022 and all terms and Conditions of the Federal Awarding Agency. Appropriation will be transferred between commitment line items as necessary once additional guidance is received from grantor agency. Section 1101(b) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides additional appropriated funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative expenses to assist State agencies in carrying out legislative provisions and administering SNAP. Arkansas has been awarded \$3,863,905 for FY23.

**American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding**

Func. Area: HHS Fund Code: FRP7151 Direct Funding: X  
Funds Center: AL2/AL2D Internal Order/WBS Element: NEW Steering Comm. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Continuation: \_\_\_\_\_

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	2,838,065
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CF: 04)	
Other: Misc. 590.00:44 Data Processing Services	1,025,840
Other:	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,863,905</b>

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 09-30-2023

Mykhailo Li 1/30/2023

DPA IGS State Technology Planning Date  
Items requested for information technology must be in  
compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DPA  
IGS State Technology Planning.

Positions to be established: (list each position separately)

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Comt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by: [Signature] 1.5.23  
Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date

Robert Brech 2/6/23  
Office of Budget Date

Office of Personnel Mgmt Date

*MEF 1/30/2023*

Joshua Kenyon 1/6/23

**Arkansas DHS Division of County Operations (DHS-DCO)  
American Rescue Plan – USDA Food and Nutrition Services  
SNAP State Administrative Expenditures Grant**

On March 11, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This legislation provides support for American families, State governments, and communities to rebuild lives and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Section 1101(b) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides an additional \$1.15 billion of appropriated funds for SNAP administrative expenses to assist State agencies in carrying out legislative provisions and administering SNAP. These funds are available at a 100 percent reimbursement rate.

Arkansas will receive \$3,626,229.39. These funds must be obligated by September 30, 2023 and expended by December 31, 2023. \*DFA- OB Note  
Total funding differs from request due to \$237,676 recoveries from FFY21.

FNS’ expectation is that State agencies will use these funds to achieve the President’s objective with this legislation, which is to make a difference in people’s everyday lives. This funding provides a unique opportunity for State agencies to make investments into their business processes, including technology, that will increase access while maintaining stewardship of Federal dollars.

DHS-DCO will use these funds in the following categories:

- Certification** – Arkansas will use approximately 57.5% of FY 2022 SAE allocation to defray one-time costs to replace our county office in Jefferson County. Arkansas DHS maintains a county office location in each county in the state to provide services to our clients. Jefferson County is one of our most heavily populated counties in our state. Our current location is at capacity with no room for growth as our population changes and the need to be able to house additional staff can change. Also in our current location, we experience multiple, frequent maintenance issues that require repair. The current location has previously had copper stolen from the HVAC units and other damage due to criminal activity that has occurred in the vicinity of the office. Although these issues are mitigated as they occur, we determined that a more suitable location and building would better meet the needs of our clients and staff. We have located and leased a building that will meet future needs for growth, is in excellent condition and has adequate parking to for clients and staff. The new location is still within an area where many of the clients we serve live, and close to the city high school. We will use approximately \$1,600,000 (44%) to cover the cost to remodel the existing space to suit the needs of an active county office, including private interview spaces to conduct in-person interviews as needed for SNAP clients. Private kiosk space will be available for online applicants to ensure privacy and ease of access. *Arkansas will save \$1,450,000 in rental charges over the next ten years by paying this renovation cost at the beginning of our lease.* Approximately \$585,000 (16%) of Arkansas’ allocation will be used to cover cubicles, furniture, set up, and physical moving expenses for the new office. The following table provides specific details on the planned use of funds:

Item	Approx. Total Cost
Building Remodel	\$ 1,500,000

Cubicles, furnishings	\$ 580,000
Moving Expenses	\$ 5,000

- **Certification** - Arkansas will use approximately 14.5% of these funds to replace work out furniture and improve physical security in county offices with improved keypad entry or card access entry locks, improved visibility and lighting at exit doors. Approximate amount equals \$500,000.
- **ADP Operations:** Upgrades to support IT infrastructure in county offices – Approximately 28% will be spent to replace network switches, cables, laptops and scanners that support DHS-DCO operations in county offices. In addition to this, updates to the SNAP Works Employment and Training Management Information System will be completed to improve provider interactions with the system. The following table provides specific details on the planned equipment and software order:

Item	Approx. Total Cost
Network switches and cables	\$ 60,000
Xerox Documate 6440 scanners	\$ 75,000
DHS Mobile Precision 3560 laptops	\$ 488,410
4K Dual Display Docking Station with 60W Power	\$ 105,460
Laptop Carry Case	\$ 21,970
Dell Monitors	\$ 25,000
SNAP Works Enhancements	\$ 250,000

- **Certification** – Any remainder funds from the above projects will be used for postage to support mailing of SNAP notices.



**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
SECTION 38 OF ACT 997 OF 2021**

**D2**

Agency: DHS, Division of Aging, Adult & Behavioral Health Services Business Area Code: 0710

Program Title: Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services (MHBG FY2021 ARPA)

Granting Organization: MHBG-Department of Health and Human Services  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration CFDA #: 93.958

Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2022 Ending: 6/30/2023

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
Arkansas will be using ARPA funds to develop, enhance, and improve our crisis continuum services, enhance evidence-based practice, and implement a First Episode of Psychosis/Early Serious Mental Illness (FEP/ESMI) pilot program. Funding will be used to target continued enhancement of crisis systems by expanding access to Peer Recovery Support services, ensuring culturally affirmative access to crisis services for deaf/hard of hearing and Spanish speaking persons, providing evidence-based training for professional and lay persons, and a pilot program to target comprehensive services for the First Episode of Psychosis population. The requested positions will be utilized to facilitate these initiatives. This is a position only request.

**American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding**

Func. Area: HHS Fund Code: FRP7141 Direct Funding: X  
Funds Center: AN8 Internal Order/WBS Element: RALPAR20 Steering Comm. Approved:

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	
Other:	
Other:	
<b>Total</b>	\$ <b>-</b>

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/30/2025

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**DFA IGS State Technology Planning** Date  
Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)**

\* unclassified positions only

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Cmnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maxim Jm *
0710	HS29	NEL1	999013		501:00:00 /501:00:0 3	Grants Analyst	G180C	GS06	
0710	HS29	NEL1	999013		501:00:00 /501:00:0 3	Grants Analyst	G180C	GS06	
0710	HS29	NEL1	999013		501:00:00 /501:00:0 3	Administrative Analyst	C037C	GS06	

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by: Jay Hunter 11/22/22 Robert Brech 12/20/22 Kay Bannell  
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date  
Carolyn Koetz acting for Misty Eubanks 12/4/22 JM 12/16/2022 60  
12/21/22

## **DHS – Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Mental Health Block Grant Arkansas Plan**

Arkansas will be using ARPA funds to develop, enhance, and improve our crisis continuum services, enhance evidence-based practice, and implement a First Episode of Psychosis/Early Serious Mental Illness (FEP/ESMI) pilot program.

Our focus on the crisis continuum services will include additional expansion (beyond the COVID Relief Plan) of our Peer Workforce. We have a goal of infusing more Peers into judicial, correctional, law enforcement, and child welfare settings. These funds will ensure appropriate training, program development, and Peer Supervision for this workforce. Peers providing services in these areas will ensure coordination/connection with those in need of behavioral health services. **\$5,500,000.00**

Additionally, our crisis continuum is currently lacking accommodations for the deaf, hard of hearing, and Spanish speaking communities. Ready access to credentialed interpreters is crucial for those experiencing mental health crises. Effective communication may also be able to divert individuals from more costly crisis services. **\$480,000.00**

Our current crisis system does not ensure adequate follow-up with individuals, post-crisis. With the enhanced Peer workforce, our plan will include incorporating Peers to staff an informational line which will incorporate a “warm line” along with follow-up for 6 months after the initial crisis. This element of the crisis continuum encompasses the mandatory 5% set aside for Crisis Services per our federal block grant requirements. **\$1,288,679.00**

Finally, our current crisis continuum is lacking a state-wide platform for outreach and informational campaigns on how to seek crisis services. In addition to these campaigns, Arkansas will develop a portal for treatment providers and community supports. This resource will be helpful with the implementation of 9-8-8. **\$2,000,000.00**

Evidence-based practice enhancement will target providing our mental health professionals with nationally recognized training models. One critical area of training will focus on trauma-focused care. In addition, Mental Health First Aid training will be made widely available for Arkansans who work with the public but have limited knowledge of how to deal with those in crisis, including referrals for appropriate services. **\$1,000,000.00**

Arkansas lags behind many other states with implementation of evidence-based care for our FEP/ESMI citizens. As this is a priority population identified by our federal block grant. This grant requires a minimum of 10% of the funds be dedicated toward this population. A full Coordinated Special Care model will be implemented with this funding. **\$1,248,000.00**

Support and administration of the ARPA program components through hiring of 3 positions to oversee these programs. **\$970,351.00**

\*DFA- OB edit  
Now 4 positions as the division  
received one position (GS07) in  
August 2022 and are currently  
request 3 more

**Total: \$12,487,030.00**

jmoore