

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2026
4

As Engrossed: H4/21/26

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1077

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
11 SERVICES - DIVISION OF COUNTY OPERATIONS FOR THE
12 FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
17 SERVICES - DIVISION OF COUNTY OPERATIONS
18 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL
19 YEAR.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established
26 for the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations for the
27 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.
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Item	Class		Maximum	Maximum Annual
No.	Code	Title	No. of	Salary Rate
			Employees	Fiscal Year
				2026-2027
33	(1)	EEX22A HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE02
34	(2)	SSP03C DHS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC09
35	(3)	SSP07C SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR	5	GRADE SPC08
36	(4)	LAT04P ATTORNEY II	1	GRADE SPC05



1	(5)	SSP09C SOCIAL SERVICES AREA MANAGER	8	GRADE SGS11
2	(6)	SSP14C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER III	11	GRADE SGS10
3	(7)	CTR03C TRAINING MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
4	(8)	PQA02C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
5	(9)	SSP13C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER II	32	GRADE SGS09
6	(10)	SSP15C SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER	3	GRADE SGS09
7	(11)	SSP12C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER I	39	GRADE SGS08
8	(12)	PQA04P QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPVR/EXPERT	5	GRADE SGS08
9	(13)	SSP17P SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
10	(14)	CTR04P TRAINING SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	6	GRADE SGS08
11	(15)	IIV05P INVESTIGATOR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS07
12	(16)	PPE04P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SUPVR/EXPERT	187	GRADE SGS07
13	(17)	SSP11P SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SGS07
14	(18)	CTR02P TRAINER	21	GRADE SGS07
15	(19)	PPE03P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST II	152	GRADE SGS06
16	(20)	PQA03P QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST	27	GRADE SGS06
17	(21)	SSP16P SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
18	(22)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	21	GRADE SGS05
19	(23)	FBU03P BUDGET SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS05
20	(24)	FGM02P GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
21	(25)	IIV03P INVESTIGATOR II	20	GRADE SGS05
22	(26)	PPE02P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST I	977	GRADE SGS05
23	(27)	PAS07I COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR	35	GRADE SGS04
24	(28)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	14	GRADE SGS04
25	(29)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS04
26	(30)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	7	GRADE SGS04
27	(31)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	417	GRADE SGS02
28	(32)	MPH03P PHYSICIAN	1	GRADE MED10
29	(33)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	2	GRADE MED05
30	(34)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	5	GRADE IST02
31	(35)	PPR02P PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
32		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	2,010	

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34 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for
 35 the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Operations
 36 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or

1 temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds
 2 appropriated herein for such purposes: forty-three (43) temporary or part-
 3 time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in
 4 the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this
 5 act for the appropriate classification.

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 7 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated,
 8 to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as
 9 determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services
 10 and operating expenses of the Department of Human Services - Division of
 11 County Operations - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
 12 following:

14 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
15 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
16 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$89,928,947
17 (02) EXTRA HELP	503,937
18 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	36,871,495
19 (04) OVERTIME	130,000
20 (05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
21 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	27,469,893
22 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	124,000
23 (C) PROF. FEES	19,037,338
24 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
25 (E) DATA PROC.	0
26 (06) DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	<u>20,356,228</u>
27 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$194,421,838</u>

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 29 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS - STATE. There is hereby
 30 appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the
 31 Department of Human Services Grants Fund Account, for grant payments of the
 32 Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Grants - State
 33 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

35 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
36 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>

1 (01) AID TO AGED, BLIND, DISABLED \$4,000

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3 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to
 4 the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as
 5 determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grant payments of
 6 the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Grants for
 7 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

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9 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
10 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
11 (01) COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT	\$13,943,475
12 (02) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE	
13 PROGRAM (SNAP)	5,378,754
14 (03) TANF BLOCK GRANT	<u>57,200,764</u>
15 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$76,522,993</u>

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17 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - COUNTY OPERATIONS - MEDICAID TOBACCO
 18 SETTLEMENT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human
 19 Services, to be payable from the Medicaid Expansion Program Account, for
 20 personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Human Services
 21 - Division of County Operations - Medicaid Tobacco Settlement Program for the
 22 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

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24 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
25 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
26 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,677,881
27 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	704,614
28 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
29 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	197,197
30 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
31 (C) PROF. FEES	0
32 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
33 (E) DATA PROC.	0
34 (04) DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	<u>50,000</u>
35 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$2,629,692</u>

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1 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS. There
 2 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable
 3 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
 4 State, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of
 5 County Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

7 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
8 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
9 (01) EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE	<u>\$2,131,685</u>

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 11 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - SUMMER EBT. There is hereby appropriated,
 12 to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as
 13 determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for expenses associated
 14 with the Summer EBT of the Department of Human Services - Division of County
 15 Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

17 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
18 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
19 (01) SUMMER EBT	<u>\$50,555,398</u>

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 21 SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 22 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER
 23 OF TANF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS. Each fiscal year, the Department of Human
 24 Services shall transfer the sum of seven million five hundred thousand
 25 dollars (\$7,500,000) from the state's federal Temporary Assistance for Needy
 26 Families block grant to the Department of Education Division of Elementary
 27 and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account to be used solely for the
 28 Arkansas Better Chance Program.

29 If the state match for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant
 30 or the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant is reduced, the
 31 amount to be transferred may be adjusted in proportion to the percentage
 32 change in the state match or the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy
 33 Families grant. The amount to be transferred may also be reduced
 34 proportionately if new cost requirements are imposed upon the state as a
 35 result of new or revised Temporary Assistance for Needy Families regulations
 36 at the federal level.

1 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2025
2 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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4 SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
6 RESTRICTIONS ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY
7 FAMILIES PROGRAM.

8 (a)(1) Determining the maximum number of employees, the maximum amount
9 of appropriation, for what purposes an appropriation is authorized, and
10 general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the
11 prerogative of the General Assembly.

12 (2) The purposes of subsection (a) of this section are typically
13 accomplished by:

14 (A) Identifying the purpose in the appropriation act;

15 (B) Delineating such maximums in the appropriation act for a
16 state agency; and

17 (C) Delineating the general revenue allocations authorized for
18 each fund and fund account by amendment to the revenue stabilization law.

19 (3) It is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly
20 restrict the use of appropriations authorized in this act.

21 (b)(1) Upon the request of the Governor or the General Assembly, the
22 Department of Human Services shall request a waiver from the federal
23 government to:

24 (A) Restrict the financial assistance granted to a recipient of
25 the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program or its successor program
26 to purchase goods and services that are considered essential and necessary
27 for the welfare of the family, including without limitation:

28 (i) Food;

29 (ii) Clothing;

30 (iii) Housing;

31 (iv) Utilities;

32 (v) Child care; and

33 (vi) Incidentals, including without limitation
34 transportation and medicine or medical supplies or equipment not covered by
35 either the Arkansas Medicaid Program or the health benefit plan of the
36 individual; and

1 (B) Restrict the cash withdrawal from an electronic benefit
2 transfer card account that receives financial assistance under the Temporary
3 Assistance for Needy Families Program or its successor program by electronic
4 benefit transfer system.

5 (2) If the federal government denies the waiver application, this
6 section shall not be implemented.

7 (3) If the division does not request a wavier under subdivision
8 (b)(1) of this section, the department shall not allocate, budget, expend, or
9 utilize appropriations under this act for the participation of persons in the
10 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

11 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
12 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

13
14 SECTION 11. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
15 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
16 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
17 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
18 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
19 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
20 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
21 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
22 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

23
24 SECTION 12. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
25 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
26 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
27 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
28 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
29 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
30 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
31 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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33 SECTION 13. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
34 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
35 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
36 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of

1 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
2 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
3 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
4 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
5 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
6 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
7 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

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9 */s/Joint Budget Committee*

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12 **APPROVED: 4/29/26**
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