



Department of Transformation and Shared Services
Governor Asa Hutchinson
Secretary Mitch Rouse
Director Kay Barnhill

August 24, 2022

The Honorable David Wallace, Co-Chairperson
 The Honorable David Hillman, Co-Chairperson
 Uniform Personnel Classification and
 Compensation Plan Subcommittee
 Joint Budget Committee
 State Capitol Building, Room 315
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Wallace and Representative Hillman:

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) submits a request from Department of Agriculture, Division of Shared Services, to obtain one (1) position from the OPM Growth pool established by Ark. Code Ann. §21-5-225(b). The classification requested is listed below:

CLASSIFICATION REQUESTED

<u>CLASS CODE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SALARY RANGE</u>
D007C	Information Systems Manager	IT08	\$71,704 - \$103,970

JUSTIFICATION

This department has stated that there is a critical need to expand their current programming capabilities internally from one Information Systems Manager to two so that they may expediate processes and handle administering programs through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which the department had previously not been responsible for. This growth pool is requested because Agriculture has determined that the current funding spent on third-party contractors could be greatly reduced and the industry demands could be met more quickly by having a state employee perform the work required. The expected cost is approximately \$88,196, including matching, over the current expenses and no additional general revenue funds are requested.

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The Office of Personnel Management has reviewed these requests and **recommends** the approval of one position from the OPM growth pool. Your approval of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kay Barnhill, Director
Office of Personnel Management



**SECRETARY OF TRANSFORMATION & SHARED
SERVICES**

DATE

KB/sd:1-2



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

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June 22, 2022

Ms. Kay Barnhill
Administrator, Office of Personnel Management
Department of Transformation and Shared Service
501 Woodland, Suite 205
Little Rock, AR 72203



Dear Ms. Barnhill:

I am writing to request an IT08 Information Systems Manager position from the growth pool. This position is needed to enable the Arkansas Department of Agriculture to bring antiquated systems up to date to improve efficiency and service to Arkansas's agriculture industry, our state's largest industry.

The IT programming workload needs within the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) greatly exceed the capacity of the Department's only experienced programmer which results in a heavy and expensive reliance on outside contractors. Gaining an additional programmer now would allow us to reduce reliance on and costs associated with third party contractors and make substantial progress more quickly to meet industry demands. The critical need to expand programming capability internally and expediate progress is further exacerbated by the additional responsibilities and programs the Department will begin administering soon through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Your approval of this request for this important position would be greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to let me know if additional information is needed.

Respectfully,

Wesley W. Ward
Secretary of Agriculture
State of Arkansas