

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION  
ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES (0520)  
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

**I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES**

**MISSION**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' (ARS) mission is to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to work and lead productive and independent lives. ARS provides statewide vocational rehabilitation services to disabled persons so they can return to or enter employment. ARS carries out its responsibilities through a field program that reaches all 75 counties through 19 field offices, the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center (HSRC), and Special Programs and Support Services.

**TOTAL APPROPRIATION**

The total appropriation for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services is \$60,103,463 for FY2011, and the general revenue funding is \$13,550,392.

**FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) is derived from federal funds (71%) and general revenue (22%), with the remaining 7% consisting of fund balances, special revenue, cash funds and program income (cafeteria fees, contributions, reimbursement fees, hospital medical fees, interest income and institutional services).

**II) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OVER FY2010**

**STATEWIDE DISABILITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS (APPROPRIATION 374)**

This appropriation is funded with special revenues which are derived from Arkansas Public Service Commission surcharges of \$.03 per land line per month. The program provides telecommunication devices for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or speech impaired.

The total appropriation is \$507,061 for FY2011 with an increase of \$5,000 over FY2010 for grants and aid to purchase text telephones (TTY), TTYs with large displays, and/or Braille access, volume controls or signalers.

**REHABILITATION SERVICES CASH IN TREASURY PAYING (APPROPRIATION 903)**

This appropriation is funded by cash funding received from cafeteria fees, contributions, reimbursement fees, hospital medical fees, interest income, and institutional services fees. This funding is defined as program income and is used for ARS' maintenance and operating expenses. The total appropriation is \$863,400 for FY2011 which is an increase of \$12,000 over FY2010 and will be used for increased utility costs for the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center (HSRC) and building and grounds maintenance costs for buildings separate from the main HSRC building.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS**

Total Authorized for FY 2011: 530

Total Authorized for FY 2010: 530

Increase/(Decrease): 0

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

**COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT:** Authorizes a general waiver of the Financial Management Guide "R1-19-4-522 Continuing Professional Education" to allow the agency to provide college level coursework in degree programs for eligible employees selected by the agency to insure that qualified, professional personnel are in place to provide rehabilitation services. This waiver is required so that ARS can comply with Section 101(a)(7) of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 which requires Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies to establish qualified personnel standards for rehabilitation personnel, including VR Counselors, that are consistent with any national or state approved or recognized certification, licensing or registration requirement. Further provides, that the waiver is applicable to any and all formula and discretionary grants funded by the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services, now or in the future, to the state general revenue share, and to program income.

**FORGIVENESS OF STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM LANGUAGE:** Requires the Forgiveness of Student Loan Program to provide up to \$2,000 per year or a maximum of \$10,000 per employee to counselors employed by ARS that are determined eligible by rules promulgated by ARS in compliance with Act 1207 of 2007. The language further enumerates the eligibility requirements the rules must include: Satisfactory completion of a probationary period; proof of student loan that remains unpaid; an executed employment contract in which the counselor agrees to work for ARS 2 years for each year the program makes a payment on a student loan and agrees to repay ARS if the counselor resigns or is terminated prior to the end of the contract period.

In addition, the language requires ARS to pay for the program (up to a maximum of \$80,000 each year) out of the Grants and Aid line item within the Rehabilitation Services' Operations appropriation.

Last, the agency is required to provide written notification to all Rehabilitation Counselors employed by ARS of the availability of the program, along with a copy of the program rules, by July 1 of each year, and must report bi-annually to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee the number of employees participating in the program.

Revised July 2009