

**DHS - DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND (765)
FY2016**

As Enacted by Act 983 of 2015

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

The Division of Services for the Blind was established to provide services to blind and severely visually impaired persons through a network of counselors and private service providers throughout the State. The Division is regulated by a seven member Board. Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Division is functionally organized into three major sections: Support Services, Field Services, and Business and Technology Services.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

The total appropriation is \$11,725,997 for FY2016.

FUNDING SOURCES

The Division's budget is funded with federal funds (83%) and General Revenue (17%).

II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

- The **Division of State Services for the Blind Operations** appropriation - \$11,725,997, an increase of \$563,675, for the following:
 - Regular Salaries (\$10,982) and Personal Services Matching (\$2,693) increase for the reclassification of 11 positions
 - Operating Expenses increase of \$225,000 for the upgrade and maintenance support of the AWARE Database and routine replacement of laptops, desktops and software
 - Capital Outlay continuation of \$25,000 appropriation in the event a large unforeseen purchase is required
 - Purchase of Services increase of \$300,000 to provide additional equipment and services to blind and visually impaired Arkansans over age 55.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total FY2015 Authorized Positions: 76)

Total Authorized Positions for FY2016: 76

Total Base Level Positions for FY2015: 76

Increase/(Decrease) over Base Level: 0

Extra Help Positions FY2016: 30 (Total FY2015 Extra Help: 30)

Reclassification of 11 positions from E093C DHS/DSB Teachers for the Blind (C118) to L098C Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (C119).

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

- **COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT:** Authorizes a general waiver for the Division of State Services for the Blind to provide college level coursework for Rehabilitation

Counselors selected by the Division. The waiver covers all formula and discretionary grants funded by the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration. No state general revenue is allowed to be spent on the tuition waiver.