



GL #21

**STATE OF ARKANSAS
SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS
GOVERNOR**

March 10, 2026

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Committee
Arkansas General Assembly
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request the following amendments to the 2026-2027 Operations Appropriation Bill for the Department of Agriculture.

Please amend SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS as follows and renumber accordingly:

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(29)	CTR02P	TRAINER	2 <u>3</u>	GRADE SGS07
(34)	FFS02P	FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	4 <u>5</u>	GRADE SGS06
(40)	PAS01P	ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	29 <u>32</u>	GRADE SGS05
(47)	PAS02P	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	2 <u>10</u>	GRADE SGS04
(49)	FGM01P	GRANTS ANALYST	1 <u>2</u>	GRADE SGS04
(53)	PAS03P	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	10 <u>12</u>	GRADE SGS02
(XX)	<u>EEP02C</u>	<u>EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>GRADE SPC07</u>
(XX)	<u>FAC01P</u>	<u>ACCOUNTANT I</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>GRADE SPC01</u>
(XX)	<u>EEP06P</u>	<u>EDUCATION PROGRAM</u>		

	<u>SUPERVISOR/EXPERT</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>GRADE SGS10</u>
(XX) PQA02C	<u>QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>GRADE SGS09</u>
(XX) PQA04P	<u>QUALITY ASSURANCE</u>		
	<u>SUPERVISOR/EXPERT</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>GRADE SGS08</u>
(XX) EEP03P	<u>EDUCATION PROGRAM</u>		
	<u>COORDINATOR</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>GRADE SGS07</u>
(XX) FGM03C	<u>GRANTS MANAGER</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>GRADE SGS07</u>
(XX) PQA01P	<u>QUALITY ASSURANCE</u>		
	<u>COORDINATOR</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>GRADE SGS07</u>
(XX) EEP05P	<u>EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>GRADE SGS06</u>
(XX) IIV04P	<u>INVESTIGATOR III</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>GRADE SGS06</u>
(XX) IIV03P	<u>INVESTIGATOR II</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>GRADE SGS05</u>
(XX) PPE02P	<u>PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST I</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>GRADE SGS05</u>
(XX) TIW01P	<u>INVENTORY COORDINATOR</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>GRADE SGS04</u>
(XX) EEC04P	<u>EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM</u>		
	<u>SPECIALIST</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>GRADE SGS04</u>
(XX) IUS04P	<u>USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>GRADE IST02</u>
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	607 <u>673</u>	

Please amend SECTION 5. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS as follows:

SECTION 5. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Agriculture - Operations for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one hundred eighty-~~one~~ two (~~181~~) (182) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

Immediately following SECTION 37. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS FORESTERS FOR THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, please insert the following sections and renumber accordingly:

SECTION XX. APPROPRIATION - FOOD AND NUTRITION - CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services, operating expenses, aid and reimbursement of the Department of Agriculture - Food and Nutrition Division - Child Nutrition Program - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

Item	Fiscal Year
No.	2026-2027

(01) <u>REGULAR SALARIES</u>	<u>\$2,470,239</u>
(02) <u>PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING</u>	<u>963,383</u>
(03) <u>MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION</u>	
(A) <u>OPER. EXPENSE</u>	<u>1,172,100</u>
(B) <u>CONF. & TRAVEL</u>	<u>10,000</u>
(C) <u>PROF. FEES</u>	<u>100,000</u>
(D) <u>CAP. OUTLAY</u>	<u>50,000</u>
(E) <u>DATA PROC.</u>	<u>0</u>
(04) <u>SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE/NUTRITION ED</u>	<u>425,099,000</u>
(05) <u>REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>450,000</u>
(06) <u>FOOD AND NUTRITION FEDERAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>78,087,515</u>
<u>TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>	<u>\$508,402,237</u>

SECTION XX. APPROPRIATION - FOOD AND NUTRITION - CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM - STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Department of Agriculture Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Agriculture - Food and Nutrition Division - Child Nutrition Program - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

Item No.	Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(01) <u>REGULAR SALARIES</u>	<u>\$833,116</u>
(02) <u>PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING</u>	<u>331,339</u>
(03) <u>MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION</u>	
(A) <u>OPER. EXPENSE</u>	<u>20,000</u>
(B) <u>CONF. & TRAVEL</u>	<u>3,500</u>
(C) <u>PROF. FEES</u>	<u>0</u>
(D) <u>CAP. OUTLAY</u>	<u>0</u>
(E) <u>DATA PROC.</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>	<u>\$1,187,955</u>

SECTION XX. APPROPRIATION - FOOD AND NUTRITION - CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM - COMMODITY - DISTRIBUTION AND SALVAGE CONTAINER - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of Agriculture - Food and Nutrition Division - Child Nutrition Program - Commodity Distribution and Salvage Container - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

Item No.	Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(01) <u>MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION</u>	

<u>(A) OPER. EXPENSE</u>	<u>\$130,186</u>
<u>(B) CONF. & TRAVEL</u>	<u>9,490</u>
<u>(C) PROF. FEES</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>(D) CAP. OUTLAY</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>(E) DATA PROC.</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>	<u>\$139,676</u>

SECTION XX. APPROPRIATION - FOOD AND NUTRITION - GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Department of Agriculture Fund Account, for grants and aid to local school districts and special programs of the Department of Agriculture - Food and Nutrition Division for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

Item No.	Fiscal Year 2026-2027
<u>(01) FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM</u>	<u>\$14,700,000</u>
<u>(02) SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES</u>	<u>7,650,000</u>
<u>(03) SCHOOL FOOD LEGISLATIVE AUDIT</u>	<u>75,000</u>
<u>(04) SURPLUS COMMODITIES</u>	<u>1,125,065</u>
<u>TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>	<u>\$23,550,065</u>

The above requests transfer the Child Nutrition Program's associated positions and appropriation from the Department of Education to support the transfer of institutional knowledge and operational activity.

Immediately following SECTION XX. APPROPRIATION - FOOD AND NUTRITION - GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS, please insert the following section and renumber accordingly:

SECTION XX. APPROPRIATION - FOOD AND NUTRITION - CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM - CONFERENCES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Agriculture - Food and Nutrition Division - Child Nutrition Program - Conferences for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

Item No.	Fiscal Year 2026-2027
<u>(01) FOOD AND NUTRITION CONFERENCE AND EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$273,923</u>

The above request establishes appropriation to support cash revenues for the Department of Agriculture to host Child Nutrition Program conferences.

Immediately following SECTION XX. APPROPRIATION - FOOD AND NUTRITION - CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM - CONFERENCES, please insert the following section and renumber accordingly:

SECTION XX. APPROPRIATION - FOOD AND NUTRITION - HUNGER COALITION.
There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Department of Agriculture Fund Account, for grant payments of the Department of Agriculture - Food and Nutrition Division - Hunger Coalition for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

Item No.	Fiscal Year 2026-2027
<u>(01) HUNGER COALITION GRANTS AND AID</u>	<u>\$995,113</u>

The above request transfers the Hunger Coalition Program associated appropriation from the Department of Human Services - Division County Operations to support the transfer of program activity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of Arkansas