



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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July 8, 2022

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 23 C.A.R.E.S. Appropriation Request(s)

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Act 199 of 2022, Section 35, I am forwarding for appropriate action as required by law, the attached C.A.R.E.S. Appropriation Request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

Sincerely,


Larry W. Walther
Cabinet Secretary

LWW

Attachment(s)



myarkansaspbs.org

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June 13, 2022

Secretary Larry Walther
Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration
1509 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: C.A.R.E.S. Appropriation

Dear Secretary Walther:

Arkansas PBS made a request to the C.A.R.E.S. Act Steering Committee for funding to help complete the expansion of the broadcast footprint of our signal to reach 99.5% of available homes in Arkansas. The COVID-19 pandemic showed that AR PBS is vital as a source of high-quality educational material as displayed during the public school closures of Spring 2020 and our broadcast of "Arkansas AMI", and the summer learning initiative "Rise & Shine" designed to combat learning loss, that is now in production for Season 2. Because of the rural nature of Arkansas and the lack of broadband access to many areas of the State, broadcast is the most efficient means of reaching this population.

The Steering Committee approved our request for additional funding in FY 2021 and appropriation was approved to expend the awarded funds to continue our response to the educational needs of Arkansas students because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to extended delays in approval from the U.S. Forest Service to utilize certain tower locations in Western Arkansas, delays in bidding for required tower structural repairs, supply chain delays in equipment delivery, and many weather delays once construction began, payments to contractors and design professionals will not be fully completed by 6/30/22. We now ask that the remaining appropriation from FY 2022 be re-appropriated into FY 2023 to allow completion of payments on all phases of the project.

The total amount of appropriation requested for FY 2023 is \$465,000 and we ask that it be added to the following Fund, Fund Center and Commitment Item:

- Fund FHCCARE, Fund Center Z89
- Commitment Item 590:00:47 Broadcast Area Expansion

At this date we have three transmitter sites fully operational, and all microwave relays installed in preparation for the other transmitter to be commissioned once the final microwave path is properly aligned and our signal reaches the transmitter. Contractors are working diligently on

remaining punch list items to achieve 100% completion status. The requested appropriation will be utilized well within the CARES Act spending period.

Please let me know if you have questions or need any additional information at (501) 682-4125 or fwiedower@myarkansaspbs.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred H. Wiedower". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "W".

Fred Wiedower

Deputy Director, Finance & Administration (CFO)