

**0810 - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
AS ENACTED BY ACT 609 OF 2025**

The primary responsibilities of the Department of Commerce - Division of Workforce Services (DWS) are to promote employment security by increasing opportunities for employment placement and to provide, through the accumulation of funds from employer contribution taxes, for the payment of benefits to individuals who are involuntarily unemployed. In 2019 the following programs were transferred to the Division from the Department of Career Education: Adult Education, Adult Basic Education, Federal Adult Basic Education, Governor's Commission on Adult Literacy, Adult Basic and General Education, and GED Testing. Per Act 832 of 2023, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was transferred from the Department of Commerce - Division of Workforce Services to the Department of Human Services. **Per Act 609 of 2025, the Division of Rehabilitation Services was transferred to the Division of Workforce Services.** Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' (DOC - 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 Arkansas Career Development Center (formerly the Arkansas Training Institute - ACTI), Business Engagement services, Access and Accommodations Programs, Transition and Support Services, and the Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In 2019 the State Services for the Blind, originally established to provide services to blind and severely visually impaired persons through a network of counselors and private service providers throughout the State, was transferred from the Department of Human Services to Rehabilitation Services. **Act 608 of 2025 transferred the programs and appropriations for Construction Industry Craft Training, State Apprenticeship Expansion, Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network - State, Federal and Cash sections, Supply Chain Optimization and Intelligence Network, to the Division of Workforce Services. It included Extra Help to support the Business Engagement and Training/Existing Business Programs at the Division of Workforce Services and added 2 new appropriations to the Economic Development Commission's Rural Services Division - \$10 million for a Community Assistance Grant Program and \$50,000 for Animal Rescue and Shelter Grants.**

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

Appropriation		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
		Actual	Authorized	Legislative
2RF	Annual Assessments	\$22,000	\$26,000	\$26,000
2SC	Excess Unemployment Benefits/ Expenses	\$202,660	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
2SD	Operations - Trust Fund	\$48,755,962	\$84,431,300	\$63,578,577
NEW	Operations			\$16,258,332
2SE	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	\$17,788,700	\$40,000,000	\$30,000,000
2SF	UI Trust Fund Loan Interest	\$5,897	\$3,000,001	\$3,000,001
35Q	DWS Training Trust Fund	\$98,771	\$3,256,577	\$2,500,000
35R	DWS Unemployment Insurance Fund	\$5,827,100	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
4KQ	New Hire Registry	\$40,587	\$43,814,962	\$250,000
C27	Unemployment Benefits & Expenses - Cash	\$23,119	\$8,150,001	\$1,000,001
C28	Federal Employees Benefit-Cash	\$5,161,767	\$1,000,000,000	\$200,000,000
C29	U I Benefits - Taxable Employers - Cash	\$82,511,123	\$1,000,000,000	\$500,000,000
C30	U I Benefits - Reimburse Employers - Cash	\$0	\$20,000,000	\$1,000,000
C31	Building Improvement/Land-Reed Act	\$0	\$1	\$1,000,000
C56	Loans to Local Workforce Develop. Boards	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0
V97	UI Benefits & Exp.- Cash in Treasury	\$89,044	\$7,850,000	\$1,000,000
X88	TAA Supportive Services	\$0	\$100,000	\$200,000

X89	RTA/ATAA Payments	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
Z01	Adult Education State Operations	\$0	\$1,306,218	\$0
Z02	Adult Basic Education - State	\$0	\$593,226	\$0
Z03	Adult Basic Education - Federal	\$7,919,965	\$11,183,966	\$11,131,464
Z04	Governor's Commission on Adult Literacy	\$1,069,458	\$1,096,027	\$1,096,283
Z05	Adult Basic & General Education	\$22,770,569	\$22,770,569	\$22,770,569
Z06	GED Testing	\$300,930	\$350,000	\$400,000
NEW	Reemployment - Federal			\$21,346,317
NEW	Arkansas Workforce Connections			\$6,384,450
NEW	Wagner Peyser - Federal			\$7,000,000
NEW	Jobs for Veterans - Federal			\$1,750,000
NEW	Foreign Labor Certification Program - Fed			\$450,000
NEW	Work Opportunity Tax Credit - Federal			\$450,000
NEW	Trade Adjustment Assistance Prg - Fed			\$350,000
NEW	Reimagine - Federal			\$600,000
NEW	Workforce Innov. & Opportunity Act - Ops			\$4,000,000
NEW	AR Manufacturing Extension Network /Existing Business			\$638,550
	AR Manufacturing Ext Network - State	Transferred from Economic Dev Commission		\$257,182
	AR Manufacturing Extension Network-Fed	Transferred from Economic Dev Commission		\$2,084,441
	AR Manufacturing Extension Network-Cash	Transferred from Economic Dev Commission		\$1,162,614
	Supply Chain Optimization & Intelligence Network - Federal (S-COIN)	Transferred from Economic Dev Commission		\$400,000
	OSD - Apprenticeship Expansion	Transferred from Economic Dev Commission		\$1,130,150
,	Office of Skills Development	Transferred from Economic Dev Commission		\$26,210,963
	Construction Industry Craft Training Program	Transferred from Economic Dev Commission		\$916,399
	Arkansas Rehabilitation Services	Transferred from Rehabilitation Services		\$60,119,304
	Increasing Capabilities Access Network - Fed	Transferred from Rehabilitation Services		\$818,892
	Statewide Disability Telecommunications Equipment Program	Transferred from Rehabilitation Services		\$646,668
	People With Disabilities Program - Federal	Transferred from Rehabilitation Services		\$30,000
	Technology Equipment Revolving Loan Prg	Transferred from Rehabilitation Services		\$750,000
	Rehabilitation Services - Cash Operations	Transferred from Rehabilitation Services		\$356,542
	State Services for the Blind	Transferred from Rehabilitation Services		\$6,533,038
	Blind Services Grants	Transferred from Rehabilitation Services		\$6,000,000
NEW	DWS - Workforce Policy & Innovation			\$1,993,792
Total		\$193,390,343	\$2,212,206,215	\$1,026,252,317

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Sources		2023-2024 Actual	%
Fund Balance	4000005	\$91,522,322	33.68
General Revenue	4000010	\$9,664,444	3.56

Federal Revenue	4000020	\$211,963,711	78.00
Stabilization Tax	4000033	\$6,708,931	2.47
Cash Fund	4000045	\$317,335	0.12
Educational Excellence Fund	4000220	\$16,485,397	6.07
Inter-agency Fund Transfer	4000316	(\$2,083,983)	-0.77
Intra-agency Fund Transfer	4000317	\$2,044,030	0.75
Other	4000370	\$1,013,139	0.37
TANF Transfer	4000478	(\$65,807,635)	-24.22
Shared Services Transfer	4000760	(\$71,157)	-0.03
Total Funds		\$271,756,534	100.00
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(\$78,366,191)	
Grand Total		\$193,390,343	

CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

*Change levels in salary and match line items are due to adjustments for employees as authorized by law.

Operations (Appropriation 2SD)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5010001	Extra Help	\$3,748,866	\$1,000,000	(\$2,748,866)
5010006	Overtime	\$1,060,000	\$360,000	(\$700,000)
5050009	Conference & Travel Expenses	\$705,440	\$396,990	(\$308,450)
5060010	Professional Fees	\$3,000,000	\$1,672,462	(\$1,327,538)
Total		\$55,337,632	\$44,242,836	(\$11,094,796)

- Decrease of three-hundred and five (305) extra help positions and related appropriation due to end of public health emergency need for extra help to process unemployment claims.
- Decrease in overtime, conference and travel and professional fees line items to align appropriations with anticipated spend.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Appropriation 2SE)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5100004	Grants and Aid	\$40,000,000	\$30,000,000	(\$10,000,000)
Total		\$40,000,000	\$30,000,000	(\$10,000,000)

- Decrease in grants and aid line item to align appropriations with anticipated expenditures.

DWS Training Trust Fund (Appropriation 35Q)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5900046	Personal Services, Operating Expenses and Grants	\$3,256,577	\$2,500,000	(\$756,577)
Total		\$3,256,577	\$2,500,000	(\$756,577)

- Decrease in combined line items to align appropriations with anticipated revenue and expenditures.

Unemployment Benefits & Expenses - Cash (Appropriation C27)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5100004	Disaster Relief Payments	\$4,000,000	\$350,000	(\$3,650,000)
5900046	Training Allowances	\$4,000,000	\$500,000	(\$3,500,000)
Total		\$8,000,000	\$850,000	(\$7,150,000)

- Decrease in grants and aid line and training allowances line items to align appropriation with declining program population.

Federal Employees Benefit-Cash (Appropriation C28)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5100023	Benefits-Non Employee	\$1,000,000,000	\$200,000,000	(\$800,000,000)
Total		\$1,000,000,000	\$200,000,000	(\$800,000,000)

- Decreased to align appropriation with anticipated funding and expenditure.

Rehab Services - Operations (Appropriation 128)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5050009	Conference & Travel Expenses	\$141,178	\$175,000	\$33,822
5900043	Grants and Aid/Purchase of Services	\$25,455,389	\$30,000,000	\$4,544,611
Total		\$49,968,802	\$52,975,412	\$3,006,610

- Increase in conference and travel line item due to need to provide necessary technical assistance training.
- Increase in contract services line item to support additional client service expenditures for associated contracts.

Increase Capabilities Access Network (Appropriation 1VB)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5020002	Operating Expenses	\$363,789	\$400,000	\$36,211
5060010	Professional Fees	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$4,000
Total		\$697,277	\$698,490	\$1,213

- Increase in operating expenses line item to support associated costs of assistive technology.
- Increase in professional feed to support contract fees.

Statewide Disability Telecomm (Appropriation 374)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5020002	Operating Expenses	\$60,000	\$80,000	\$20,000
5100004	Grants and Aid	\$250,000	\$310,000	\$60,000
Total		\$490,305	\$634,668	\$144,363

- Increase in operating expenses line item for monthly software maintenance and operating expenses.
- Increase in Grants and Aid line item to enable the agency to provide for additional client equipment.

Tech Equipment - Treasury (Appropriation 902)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5120029	Loans	\$532,085	\$750,000	\$217,915
Total		\$532,085	\$750,000	\$217,915

- Increased to support providing low interest loans for disabled citizens of Arkansas.

Rehab Services - Treasury Pay (Appropriation 903)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5020002	Operating Expenses	\$346,542	\$356,542	\$10,000
5050009	Conference & Travel Expenses	\$10,000	\$0	(\$10,000)
Total		\$356,542	\$356,542	\$0

- Reallocation needed to better align appropriation with expenditures and program goals.

World Services Blind Adult Ed (Appropriation E81)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5100004	Grants and Aid	\$2,000,000	\$0	(\$2,000,000)
Total		\$2,000,000	\$0	(\$2,000,000)

- Appropriation was not recommended to be included in the 2025-2026 agency budget.

Blind Services Operations (Appropriation Z84)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5020002	Operating Expenses	\$1,122,186	\$1,222,186	\$100,000
5050009	Conference & Travel Expenses	\$55,000	\$155,000	\$100,000
5120011	Capital Outlay	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Total		\$6,184,051	\$6,392,492	\$208,441

- All line items increased to continue supporting operations of the Field Services offices around the state, the Vending Facility Program and the Director's Office.

Blind Services Grants (Appropriation Z85)

Commitment Item		2024-2025	2025-2026	
		Authorized	Legislative	Change Level
5100004	Grants and Aid	\$4,646,768	\$6,000,000	\$1,353,232
Total		\$4,646,768	\$6,000,000	\$1,353,232

- Increased to support associated costs of client services and to better align budget with expenditures.

POSITIONS

Total Authorized Positions FY2026: 1,047

Total Authorized Positions FY2025: 782

Increase / (Decrease): 265

Extra Help Positions FY2026: 99 (Rehabilitation Services - 19; State Services for the Blind - 30; Workforce Services - 50)

SPECIAL LANGUAGE REVISIONS

- NEW Carry Forward - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Language authorizes any balance of funds made available which remain on June 30 to be carried forward into the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose. Conditions under which this authorization is granted are stipulated in the language.
- NEW Carry Forward - Division of State Services for the Blind - Language authorizes any balance of funds made available which remain on June 30 to be carried forward into the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose. Conditions under which this authorization is granted are stipulated in the language.