

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1920

By: Representatives McClure, Cavanaugh

By: Senator D. Wallace

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND ACCOUNT; TO TRANSFER GENERAL REVENUE TO THE AGING AND ADULT SERVICES FUND ACCOUNT TO BE USED FOR FOOD SERVICES BENEFITING THE ELDERLY; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO TRANSFER GENERAL REVENUE TO THE AGING AND ADULT SERVICES FUND ACCOUNT TO BE USED FOR FOOD SERVICES BENEFITING THE ELDERLY; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) This act serves to create a pilot program to provide funding for food services to benefit the elderly population in the State of Arkansas; and

(2) The pilot program created by this act shall be in place for the fiscal years of 2025 – 2026 and 2026 – 2027, whereafter the Legislative Council shall, after reviewing reports on the program submitted by each area agency on aging in accordance with the provisions of this act, make a recommendation as to whether the program shall continue.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Funding.

(a) After the distributions under § 19-5-406(a) and (b), an amount not



to exceed seven million dollars (\$7,000,000), or so much as is available, shall be transferred to the Aging and Adult Services Fund Account to be used exclusively for meal and food services benefitting the elderly, including without limitation congregate meals at senior citizen centers and home-delivered meal programs.

(b) An amount not to exceed four hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$490,000), or seven percent (7%) of funds available to be transferred under subsection (a) of this section, shall be set aside for the Fight Senior Hunger Community Grant Match Program.

(c) The remaining ninety-three percent (93%) of funds available to be transferred under subsection (a) of this section shall be allocated following the intrastate funding formula and with the following restrictions:

(1) Fifty percent (50%) shall be used for raw food costs in accordance with the Nutrition Services Incentive Program, 45 C.F.R. § 1321.87(d)(3), as it existed on January 1, 2025; and

(2)(A) Fifty percent (50%) shall be used for the direct operating and labor costs of preparing and delivering meals or food for the elderly.

(B) Indirect food preparation and delivery costs shall not exceed ten percent (10%).

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Fight Senior Hunger Community Grant Match Program – Creation – Definitions – Reporting.

(a) There is created a grant program to be known as the "Fight Senior Hunger Community Grant Match Program" to incentivize Arkansas counties, cities, and nonprofit organizations to help fight senior hunger in their respective communities.

(b) The Department of Human Services is authorized to award a grant to a county, city, or nonprofit organization from funds provided under Section 2 of this act if:

(1) The county, city, or nonprofit organization develops a written plan for providing meals or food to senior citizens in its community and submits the written plan to the Area Agency on Aging in its region for approval; and

(2) The members of the county quorum court, city council, or nonprofit organization submit proof that, through either donations of money

or property in kind, citizens of the county or city or persons associated with the nonprofit organization have pledged or will make available no less than one-half (1/2) of the cost of the program.

(c)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, upon the Area Agency on Aging's approval of compliance required by subdivision (b)(1) of this section, the department may approve a state grant to be used for the benefit of the county, city, or nonprofit organization program in an amount that equals up to one-half (1/2) of the estimated program cost.

(2) The state's share of the county, city, or nonprofit organization program shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization formed under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), as it existed on January 1, 2025; and

(2) "Property in kind" is limited to kitchen and dining space operational costs that would be associated with the county, city, or nonprofit organization program.

(e) Each Area Agency on Aging shall report on each active city, county, or nonprofit organization program in its region and expenditures to address senior food insecurity under this act to the:

(1) House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, and Legislative Affairs at least one (1) time each year and during a legislative session;

(2) Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth at least one (1) time each year during a legislative interim; and

(3) The Legislative Council at least one (1) time each year.

SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Effectiveness.

This act shall be effective for fiscal years 2025 – 2026 and 2026 – 2027.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the percentage of Arkansas's elderly population is increasing; that food insecurity within Arkansas's elderly population is also increasing; that if unaddressed, this food insecurity will continue to worsen and lead to needless mental and physical suffering and increased financial stress; that this act creates the Fight

Senior Hunger Community Grant Match Program to address the issue of food insecurity; and that it is necessary that this act become effective on July 1, 2025, to align with the start of the grant program created by this act with the start of the state's fiscal year and thereby ensure proper funding and appropriation for the grant program. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2025.