

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Fiscal Session, 2026

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1077

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - DIVISION OF COUNTY OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - DIVISION OF COUNTY OPERATIONS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
			No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	EEX22A	HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE02
(2)	SSP03C	DHS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC09
(3)	SSP07C	SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR	5	GRADE SPC08
(4)	LAT04P	ATTORNEY II	1	GRADE SPC05



(5)	SSP09C SOCIAL SERVICES AREA MANAGER	8	GRADE SGS11
(6)	SSP14C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER III	11	GRADE SGS10
(7)	CTR03C TRAINING MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
(8)	PQA02C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
(9)	SSP13C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER II	32	GRADE SGS09
(10)	SSP15C SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER	3	GRADE SGS09
(11)	SSP12C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER I	39	GRADE SGS08
(12)	PQA04P QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPVR/EXPERT	5	GRADE SGS08
(13)	SSP17P SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
(14)	CTR04P TRAINING SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	6	GRADE SGS08
(15)	IIV05P INVESTIGATOR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS07
(16)	PPE04P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SUPVR/EXPERT	187	GRADE SGS07
(17)	SSP11P SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SGS07
(18)	CTR02P TRAINER	21	GRADE SGS07
(19)	PPE03P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST II	152	GRADE SGS06
(20)	PQA03P QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST	27	GRADE SGS06
(21)	SSP16P SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
(22)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	21	GRADE SGS05
(23)	FBU03P BUDGET SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS05
(24)	FGM02P GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
(25)	IIV03P INVESTIGATOR II	20	GRADE SGS05
(26)	PPE02P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST I	978	GRADE SGS05
(27)	PAS07I COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR	35	GRADE SGS04
(28)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	14	GRADE SGS04
(29)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS04
(30)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	7	GRADE SGS04
(31)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	417	GRADE SGS02
(32)	MPH03P PHYSICIAN	1	GRADE MED10
(33)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	2	GRADE MED05
(34)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	5	GRADE IST02
(35)	PPR02P PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS07
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	2,013	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - 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: forty-three (43) 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.

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$90,104,361
(02) EXTRA HELP	503,937
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	36,936,004
(04) OVERTIME	130,000
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	27,469,893
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	124,000
(C) PROF. FEES	19,037,338
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	<u>20,356,228</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$194,661,761</u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS - STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Department of Human Services Grants Fund Account, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Grants - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
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(01) AID TO AGED, BLIND, DISABLED \$4,000

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT	\$13,943,475
(02) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)	5,378,754
(03) TANF BLOCK GRANT	<u>57,200,764</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$76,522,993</u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - HUNGER COALITION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the County Operations Fund Account, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Hunger Coalition for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) HUNGER COALITION GRANTS AND AID	<u>\$995,113</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - COUNTY OPERATIONS - MEDICAID TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Medicaid Expansion Program Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Medicaid Tobacco Settlement Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,677,881

(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	704,614
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	197,197
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,629,692</u></u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE	<u><u>\$2,131,685</u></u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - SUMMER EBT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for expenses associated with the Summer EBT of the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) SUMMER EBT	<u><u>\$50,555,398</u></u>

SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER OF TANF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS. Each fiscal year, the Department of Human Services shall transfer the sum of seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) from the state's federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant to the Department of Education Division of Elementary

and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account to be used solely for the Arkansas Better Chance Program.

If the state match for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant or the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant is reduced, the amount to be transferred may be adjusted in proportion to the percentage change in the state match or the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant. The amount to be transferred may also be reduced proportionately if new cost requirements are imposed upon the state as a result of new or revised Temporary Assistance for Needy Families regulations at the federal level.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. RESTRICTIONS ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM.

(a)(1) Determining the maximum number of employees, the maximum amount of appropriation, for what purposes an appropriation is authorized, and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly.

(2) The purposes of subsection (a) of this section are typically accomplished by:

- (A) Identifying the purpose in the appropriation act;
- (B) Delineating such maximums in the appropriation act for a state agency; and
- (C) Delineating the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the revenue stabilization law.

(3) It is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly restrict the use of appropriations authorized in this act.

(b)(1) Upon the request of the Governor or the General Assembly, the Department of Human Services shall request a waiver from the federal government to:

- (A) Restrict the financial assistance granted to a recipient of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program or its successor program to purchase goods and services that are considered essential and necessary

for the welfare of the family, including without limitation:

- (i) Food;
- (ii) Clothing;
- (iii) Housing;
- (iv) Utilities;
- (v) Child care; and
- (vi) Incidentals, including without limitation

transportation and medicine or medical supplies or equipment not covered by either the Arkansas Medicaid Program or the health benefit plan of the individual; and

(B) Restrict the cash withdrawal from an electronic benefit transfer card account that receives financial assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program or its successor program by electronic benefit transfer system.

(2) If the federal government denies the waiver application, this section shall not be implemented.

(3) If the division does not request a wavier under subdivision (b)(1) of this section, the department shall not allocate, budget, expend, or utilize appropriations under this act for the participation of persons in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 12. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 13. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for

which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 14. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.