

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

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Fiscal Session, 2026

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 23

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 YOUTH SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES 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 Youth Services for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	EEX22A	HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE02
(2)	SSP07C	SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR	3	GRADE SPC08
(3)	LAT04P	ATTORNEY II	1	GRADE SPC05
(4)	FFS01C	FISCAL SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SGS10
(5)	CTR03C	TRAINING MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10



(6)	IMP02C MILITARY PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
(7)	SSP15C SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
(8)	PQA04P QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPVR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
(9)	SSP17P SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	17	GRADE SGS08
(10)	PPR02P PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
(11)	PQA01P QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
(12)	SSP11P SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR	14	GRADE SGS07
(13)	ETF06P TEACHER II	4	GRADE SGS07
(14)	CTR02P TRAINER	4	GRADE SGS07
(15)	EEP05P EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST	5	GRADE SGS06
(16)	SSP16P SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	10	GRADE SGS06
(17)	ETF05P TEACHER I	5	GRADE SGS06
(18)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	GRADE SGS05
(19)	IIV03P INVESTIGATOR II	3	GRADE SGS05
(20)	SSP08P SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISOR	11	GRADE SGS05
(21)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	5	GRADE SGS04
(22)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS04
(23)	IIN01P INSPECTOR I	1	GRADE SGS04
(24)	SSP10P SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANT	24	GRADE SGS02
(25)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	<u>2</u>	GRADE MED05
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	121	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Human Services - Division of Youth Services 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: thirty-six (36) 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 Youth Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$6,012,863
(02) EXTRA HELP	41,903
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,360,445
(04) OVERTIME	8,699
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	5,257,099
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	55,400
(C) PROF. FEES	609,050
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	105,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$14,450,459</u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY BASED SANCTIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services - Division of Youth Services, to be payable from the Youth Services Fund Account, for grants and aid for graduated community based sanctions for juveniles adjudicated delinquent for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) COMMUNITY BASED SANCTIONS	<u>\$2,480,444</u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY SERVICES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Youth Services Fund Account, for purchase of services from community based providers of the Department of Human Services - Division of Youth Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) COMMUNITY SERVICES	<u>\$13,821,100</u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICE 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 federally funded grants of the Department of Human Services - Division of Youth Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) FEDERAL CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICE GRANTS	<u>\$17,832,942</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Youth Services Fund Account, for the purchase and operation of residential services by the Department of Human Services - Division of Youth Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) RESIDENTIAL SERVICES	<u>\$34,616,356</u>

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR THE JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM. The Department of Human Services shall provide funding in an amount not to exceed \$240,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 for the Juvenile Ombudsman Program described in ACA 25-43-1008. Upon request by the Secretary of the Department of Inspector General, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall transfer an amount not to exceed \$240,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 from an account designated by the Secretary of the Department of Human Services to the State Central Services Fund as a direct revenue to fund the Juvenile Ombudsman Program.

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

SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER

OF FUNDS FOR LOCAL JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall transfer funds in an amount of \$400,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 from the Department of Human Services – Youth Services Fund Account to the Juvenile Detention Facilities Operating Fund to fund the appropriation to the Department of Finance and Administration – Disbursing Officer for grants for operating expenses of local juvenile detention facilities.

The amount of the funds transferred in the fiscal year ending June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 may be adjusted upon request of the Secretary of the Department of Human Services on a pro-rata basis with any reductions provided in the Revenue Stabilization Law from the July 1 Official Forecast of general revenue funding for the Division of Youth Services.

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

SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES CONTINGENCY. If it has been determined that the Department of Human Services - Division of Youth Services cannot continue to contract with private provider(s) for residential juvenile services, educational services, therapeutic services, and/or medical services and deems it necessary to utilize Department staff to provide all or parts of the required services above, the Department is authorized to seek the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the Governor and the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee to utilize the contingent residential services positions contained in this Act and to make the appropriate transfers from any line item authorized in the RESIDENTIAL SERVICES appropriation of this Act to any line item authorized in the OPERATIONS appropriation of this Act. If it has been determined that the Department of Human Services - Division of Youth Services cannot continue to operate one or more of the various service components of a Residential Facility for residential juvenile services, educational services, therapeutic services, and/or medical services and deems it necessary to utilize a contract with private provider(s), the Department is authorized to seek the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the Governor and the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee to make the

appropriate transfers from any line item authorized in the OPERATIONS appropriation of this Act to any line item authorized in the RESIDENTIAL SERVICES appropriation of this Act.

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. EXTRA HELP SALARIES - CONTINGENT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES POSITIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Human Services - Division of Youth Services - Contingent Residential Services Positions, the following maximum number of positions whose salaries shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act (Arkansas Code § 21-5-201 et seq.), or its successor, and all laws amendatory thereto. Requests to use positions will be based upon the non-contracted services for residential juvenile services, educational services, therapeutic services, and/or medical services. If at such time a category(s) of services are contracted with private provider(s), identified positions associated with such service(s) shall be returned to the contingency pool. In order to ensure required staffing levels, Extra Help positions authorized herein are specifically exempt from limitation of hours, either by Act or regulation.

CONTINGENT POSITIONS - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

ITEM	CLASS		MAXIMUM
NO.	CODE	TITLE	NO. OF EMPLOYEES
(01)	9999	EXTRA HELP	<u>320</u>
GRAND TOTAL CONTINGENT POSITIONS			320

The provisions of this section shall be in effect 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.