

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Fiscal Session, 2026

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 24

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

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 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 Developmental Disabilities 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)	SSP03C	DHS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE SPC09
(3)	MHA01C	NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR	5	GRADE SPC08



(4)	SSP04C DHS DIVISION MANAGER	3	GRADE SPC07
(5)	MHA02C NURSING HOME ASST ADMINISTRATOR	6	GRADE SPC06
(6)	PHS06C HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER	9	GRADE SPC05
(7)	SLA03P LABORATORY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SPC03
(8)	EES01P EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL I	1	GRADE SPC02
(9)	SCM06P LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER	4	GRADE SPC01
(10)	SCM07P SCHOOL COUNSELOR	1	GRADE SPC01
(11)	FFS01C FISCAL SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SGS10
(12)	FFS03C FISCAL SUPPORT MANAGER	4	GRADE SGS09
(13)	PQA02C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	3	GRADE SGS09
(14)	PHS08P HEALTH PROGRAM SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	16	GRADE SGS08
(15)	HDH08P HR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	5	GRADE SGS08
(16)	PQA04P QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPVR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
(17)	CTR04P TRAINING SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
(18)	TMA02C MAINTENANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS07
(19)	PRC07C RESIDENTIAL CARE MANAGER	12	GRADE SGS07
(20)	PRC02C RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MANAGER	2	GRADE SGS07
(21)	FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS07
(22)	PHS05P HEALTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR	104	GRADE SGS07
(23)	PQA01P QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	8	GRADE SGS07
(24)	ETF06P TEACHER II	2	GRADE SGS07
(25)	CTR02P TRAINER	9	GRADE SGS07
(26)	PAS04C ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE SGS06
(27)	SCM01I CHAPLAIN	1	GRADE SGS06
(28)	EEP05P EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST	7	GRADE SGS06
(29)	HDH04P HR ANALYST	5	GRADE SGS06
(30)	TMA04P MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	7	GRADE SGS06
(31)	PQA03P QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST	9	GRADE SGS06
(32)	ETF05P TEACHER I	9	GRADE SGS06
(33)	TFS04C FOOD SERVICES SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	8	GRADE SGS05
(34)	PRC06C RESIDENT. CARE TEAM SUPVR/EXPERT	85	GRADE SGS05
(35)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	6	GRADE SGS05
(36)	PPR04P PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST	5	GRADE SGS05
(37)	TST06P TRADES APPRENTICE	1	GRADE SGS05
(38)	THT02I DENTAL ASSISTANT	2	GRADE SGS04
(39)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	45	GRADE SGS04

(40)	TFM01P FACILITY COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
(41)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	17	GRADE SGS04
(42)	HDH07P HR SPECIALIST	11	GRADE SGS04
(43)	TIW01P INVENTORY COORDINATOR	5	GRADE SGS04
(44)	TMA03P MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	40	GRADE SGS04
(45)	PRC05P RESIDENTIAL CARE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	422	GRADE SGS04
(46)	TST07P TRADES SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS04
(47)	THT01I CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	899	GRADE SGS03
(48)	EEP01P EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL	1	GRADE SGS03
(49)	TIW03P INVENTORY SPECIALIST	9	GRADE SGS03
(50)	TFS05P KITCHEN SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	7	GRADE SGS03
(51)	TMA05P MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	38	GRADE SGS03
(52)	SSE01P SECURITY GUARD	1	GRADE SGS03
(53)	PAS05I CALL CENTER SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS02
(54)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	120	GRADE SGS02
(55)	THO02P HOUSEKEEPER SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	3	GRADE SGS02
(56)	TGR01P LANDSCAPE COORDINATOR	13	GRADE SGS02
(57)	TAT01I BEAUTICIAN	3	GRADE SGS01
(58)	TFS01P COOK	128	GRADE SGS01
(59)	PRC01P HEALTH AIDE	1	GRADE SGS01
(60)	THO01P HOUSEKEEPER	119	GRADE SGS01
(61)	MPH02P PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST	4	GRADE MED12
(62)	MDE01I DENTIST	1	GRADE MED09
(63)	MPS04P PSYCHOLOGIST II	3	GRADE MED09
(64)	MNU04P NURSE PRACTITIONER	8	GRADE MED08
(65)	MNU07C REGISTERED NURSE MANAGER	5	GRADE MED07
(66)	MLM07C SPEECH PATHOLOGIST	8	GRADE MED07
(67)	MDI02P DIETICIAN SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE MED06
(68)	MNU03P NURSE INSTRUCTOR	3	GRADE MED06
(69)	MNU08P REG. NURSE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	24	GRADE MED06
(70)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	73	GRADE MED05
(71)	MLM02C MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST	2	GRADE MED04
(72)	MDI01P DIETICIAN	1	GRADE MED03
(73)	MPS02P PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINER	10	GRADE MED03
(74)	MNU01P LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	104	GRADE MED02
(75)	IIS06P IT INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE IST08

(76) IIS09P IT INFRASTRUCTURE SPECIALIST	4	GRADE IST04
(77) IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST02
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	2,490	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities 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: one hundred ninety-nine (199) 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 Developmental Disabilities Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$104,129,983
(02) EXTRA HELP	2,860,944
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	45,142,858
(04) OVERTIME	4,310,000
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	30,477,449
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	25,000
(C) PROF. FEES	3,238,079
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	1,000,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) GRANTS/PATIENT SERVICES	2,487,134
(07) DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	1,000,000
(08) VOCATIONAL TRAINEES	239,000
(09) CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES	67,191

(10) PURCHASE OF SERVICES	<u>6,805,302</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$201,782,940</u></u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - SPECIAL OLYMPICS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Developmental Disabilities Services Fund Account, for grants to the Arkansas Special Olympics by the Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) GRANTS-SPECIAL OLYMPICS	<u><u>\$178,768</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Developmental Disabilities Services-Dog Track Special Revenue Fund, for expenses of the private non-profit community based programs licensed by the Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	<u><u>\$50,000</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS-IN-AID. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Developmental Disabilities Services Fund Account, for grants-in-aid to the community providers of services to the developmentally disabled by the Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) GRANTS TO COMMUNITY PROVIDERS	<u><u>\$15,892,045</u></u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - INTER-DIVISIONAL PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Developmental Disabilities Services Fund Account, for integrated services and programs developed by the various divisions, for services and programs developed in conjunction with other state agencies, and the development and implementation of an integrated case management system for the Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) INTER-DIVISIONAL PROGRAMS	<u>\$108,644</u>

SECTION 8. 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 Developmental Disabilities Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES-STATE	<u>\$1,729,279</u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS - FEDERAL. 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 Developmental Disabilities Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES-FEDERAL	<u>\$446,205</u>

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

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES - GRANTS TO COMMUNITY BASED PROVIDERS. Funds allocated for community-based services under the appropriation for (i) the Grants-in-Aid appropriation in this act, (ii) the Grants/Patient Services Line in the Operations appropriation in this act, and (iii) the Inter-Divisional Programs appropriation in this act, shall be used only to provide services through private community based services licensed or certified by the Arkansas Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) or licensed or certified by a Provider-Led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE). Non-profit community-based programs licensed by the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services are quasi-governmental instrumentalities of the state which provide supports and services to individuals who have a developmental disability or delay, who would otherwise require supports and services through state-operated programs and facilities owned by the State of Arkansas. When licensed providers are involved in delivering services which are Medicaid reimbursable, they must enroll as a provider with the Arkansas Medicaid Program and must bill the Arkansas Medicaid Program for all covered services for eligible individuals.

Services which are covered by the Arkansas State Medicaid Program, including the Provider-Led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE) model, will be utilized to the maximum extent possible for any individual who is eligible for Medicaid coverage. It is the intent of this section that DDS, as a general policy, maximize the use of Medicaid funding available for appropriate services.

Licensed private community providers funded from these appropriations for community based services shall:

1. Screen each individual to whom services are provided for a determination of eligibility or ineligibility for Medicaid coverage within thirty days of the first date that services are provided.
2. Meet minimum standards of performance in the delivery of services to people with disabilities as defined by the Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities Services.
3. Supply statistical and financial data to the Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities Services.
4. Establish and maintain a sound financial management system in accordance with guidelines as set forth by the Department of Human Services.
5. Establish and maintain community support programs designed to provide

coordinated care and treatment to ensure ongoing involvement and individualized services for persons with disabilities.

It is the intent of this section to insure that wherever possible and appropriate, Medicaid funds are utilized.

Nothing in this Act shall prevent the Division or any provider from extending emergency services when appropriate measures have been taken in a timely manner to secure Medicaid eligibility.

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.

ELIMINATION OF AUTISM WAIVER SERVICES WAITING LIST. Immediately upon the effective date of this Act, the Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities Services shall budget, allocate, and expend up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the elimination of the Autism Waiver Services Program waiting list.

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.