

0520 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES
(Including State Services for the Blind)
FISCAL YEAR 2026
TRANSFERRED TO DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES VIA ACT 609 OF 2025
(Governor's Letter #34)

The Department of Commerce - 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.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

Appropriation		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
		Actual	Authorized	Legislative
128	Rehab Services - Operations	\$50,338,445	\$58,466,801	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
1VB	Increase Capabilities Access Network	\$573,822	\$817,679	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
374	Statewide Disability Telecomm	\$561,889	\$502,305	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
743	People w/Disabilities	\$9,000	\$30,000	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
902	Tech Equipment - Treasury	\$658,277	\$532,085	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
903	Rehab Services - Treasury Pay	\$336,639	\$356,542	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
E81	World Srvs Blind Adult Ed	\$0	\$2,000,000	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
Z84	Blind Services Operations	\$4,907,357	\$6,763,484	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
Z85	Blind Services Grants	\$5,392,330	\$4,646,768	Transferred to the Div of Workforce Services
Total		\$62,777,759	\$74,115,664	

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Sources		2023-2024	
		Actual	%
Fund Balance	4000005	\$5,671,133	8.38
General Revenue	4000010	\$13,778,009	20.37
Federal Revenue	4000020	\$47,007,423	69.49
Special Revenue	4000030	\$555,208	0.82
Cash Fund	4000045	\$282,137	0.42
Other	4000370	\$64,807	0.10
Restricted Reserve Fund	4000755	\$285,000	0.42
Shared Services Transfer	4000760	\$0	0.00
Total Funds		\$67,643,717	100.00
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(\$4,865,958)	
Grand Total		\$62,777,759	

CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

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

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	Contract 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: All positions within Rehabilitation Services and State Services for the Blind were transferred to the Division of Workforce Services

Total Authorized Positions FY2025: 455 (Rehabilitation Services – 377, State Services for the Blind – 78)

Increase / (Decrease): (N/A)

Extra Help Positions FY2026: Positions within Rehabilitation Services and State Services for the Blind were transferred to both the Commerce Dept. & the Division of Workforce Services

SPECIAL LANGUAGE REVISIONS

None.