



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

C
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September 5, 2024

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Representative Frances Cavanaugh, Co-Chair
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 25 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 36 (01) of Act 152 of 2024, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

1. Department of Health – Division of Health – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children Modernization Grant \$500,000

Pursuant to Section 36 (02) of Act 152 of 2024, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

2. Department of Public Safety – Arkansas State Police – Construction and Equipment Upgrade – Plan Change Only \$0
3. Department of Finance and Administration – Disbursing Officer – Mercy Fort Smith – Plan Change Only \$0
4. Department of Public Safety – Arkansas State Police – Construction and Equipment Upgrade \$1,200,000

Sincerely,

James L. Hudson
Secretary

Attachment(s)

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST
SECTION 36 OF ACT 152 OF 2024**

C.1

Agency: Arkansas Department of Health Business Area Code: 0645
 Program Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Modernization Grant
 Granting Organization: United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition CFDA #: 10.557
 Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2024 Ending: 6/30/2025

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):
 The Purpose of this grant is to improve Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC) innovation and modernization efforts to be funded under the American Rescue Plan Act, the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services (USDA FNS) is supporting planning and implementation projects focused on enhancements that improve the WIC participant experience, as evidence by enhancing the WIC shopping experience, increasing participant enrollment, reducing unnecessary administrative burden for both participants and administrators, including through data matching to streamline enrollment, and retaining eligible participants while improving equity. The Arkansas WIC Program would like to use funds from this grant to implement telehealth for WIC services and support for participants.

American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding

Func. Area: HHS Fund Code: FRP6456 Direct Funding: _____
 Funds Center: NEW Internal Order/WBS Element: _____ State: _____
 Continuation: _____

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	\$500,000
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	
Other: MIS System	
Other: EBT Claims Processing	
Total	\$ 500,000

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/30/2027

Gary Zhou 8/23/2024

DFA IGS State Technology Planning Date
 Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

Positions to be established: (list each position separately)

* unclassified positions only

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Cmnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by: J.D. Ade 8-21-24 Robert Brech 09/04/24
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt 1 Date
 CRB 8/22/2024

WIC Modernization Grant Summary

USDA FNS Federal Regulations requires all WIC Program participants to receive consultation with a WIC Registered Dietitian (RD) within 45 calendar days when the participants are determined to be at high-risk nutritionally based on the federally regulated WIC nutrition risk factors. Over the past three years, the Arkansas WIC Program experienced a severe decline in RD staff and have been unable to provide adequate coverage to meet the USDA FNS federal regulations for consultation of high-risk participants. Implementing telehealth services would be the most cost-effective way to utilize current RD staff without increasing travel time and expenses to send staff to the various 90 local health department offices as there are only 13 RDs to provide high-risk nutrition coverage for the entire state of Arkansas.

The Arkansas WIC Program would like to use these funds to implement a telehealth platform for high-risk nutrition assessment appointments, breastfeeding peer counselor appointments, and remote certification appointments when necessary. The telehealth system can also be used by WIC Vendor Liaisons to assist participants in the store while shopping. Due to the critical staffing shortage, specifically with Registered Dietitians, a telehealth platform will allow WIC staff to see more participants in a shorter amount of time as well as provide flexibility to those participants who need remote services for varied reasons. A telehealth platform will allow WIC staff to see participants in almost any setting and will be a valuable resource for the Arkansas WIC Program. The program would like a platform that allows for scheduling future appointments, instant chat features, provides screen and document sharing, is HIPPA compliant, and provides real time data and reporting so the WIC Program can monitor the effectiveness of this video platform and adjust as needed. To start, the program plans to train 96 staff throughout the State. Once a baseline of use is determined, the program can look at training more CPAs and clerical staff.



COL. MIKE A. HAGAR
Secretary

State of Arkansas
Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

1 State Police Plaza Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72209
Office: (501) 618-8235

August 15, 2024

Jim Hudson, Secretary
Department of Finance and Administration
Office of the Secretary
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 401
Little Rock, AR 72203-3278

Dear Secretary Hudson:

The Arkansas Department of Public Safety – Division of Arkansas State Police (ASP) is requesting a re-allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to address the following requests:

Barracks at Camp Robinson	1,600,000	Build Training Barracks at Camp Robinson Training Center
ASP AWIN Equipment Upgrade	(1,600,000)	Update AWIN Equipment

ASP was able to successfully negotiate a favorable deal for updating the AWIN equipment and achieve significant savings through the negotiation process. This reallocation will be used to fund the ASP Barracks along with private donations from the ASP Foundation and will be committed to the contractor contract in AASIS by November 30, 2024. The barracks construction is estimated to be completed by December 2026.

Your consideration in this reallocation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Colonel Mike A. Hagar
Secretary

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST
SECTION 36 OF ACT 152 OF 2024**

C.3

Agency: Department of Finance and Administration Business Area Code: 0620
 Program Title: ARPA - Mercy Fort Smith
 Granting Organization: US Treasury CFDA #: 21.027
 Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 9/1/2024 Ending: 6/30/2024

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):
 Mercy Ft. Smith is revising their detailed plan for building a free-standing off-campus cancer center in Ft. Smith. After working with a design firm, HKS, new options have been presented.

1. Expansion/Consolidation of oncology services on-campus
2. Phased construction of an off-site center near the existing campus

Revised plan with details is attached.

American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding

Func. Area: ADMN Fund Code: FRP6219 Direct Funding: _____
 Funds Center: CC9 Internal Order/WBS Element: _____ State: X
 Continuation: _____

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	
Other:	
Other:	
Total	\$ -

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 12/31/2026

	Date
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DFA IGS State Technology Planning Date
 Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

Positions to be established: (list each position separately)

* unclassified positions only

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Cmnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by: *[Signature]* 9/3-24 Robert Brech 09/04/24
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date

jmoore 8/30/2024

Summary of Request to the State of Arkansas

In February 2024, the Arkansas Legislative Council approved an ARPA award to Mercy Health Foundation Fort Smith of \$12M specifically toward the construction of a free-standing off-campus cancer center in Fort Smith. As this project has evolved to include both on- and off-campus options, and we complete our due diligence in determining the most responsible path forward, we are grateful for the State of Arkansas' willingness to continue with us in support of expanding access to the cutting-edge cancer care the region needs and deserves. Mercy will match funds from the State of Arkansas, applying them to a combination of equipment, facility planning and/or construction expenses, and will expend these funds prior to December 31, 2026.

Background

Mercy Fort Smith has been an integral part of the health of our region since the first Sisters of Mercy arrived here in 1853. Today, we serve nearly a half-million people providing comprehensive primary, specialized, and acute medical services for a significant portion of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Since 2008, Mercy has invested more than \$400M in the healthcare infrastructure of this region to grow medical access in a region historically and significantly underserved.

Looking to the near future, we have opportunity to transform one of the most challenging specialty services in our entire region—cancer care—but we need the help of our community and partners to do it.

Right now, more than 5,000 residents in the River Valley region are newly diagnosed with cancer each year. In the last decade, as other regional cancer care providers have either reduced their capacity (Baptist Health Fort Smith) or even shuttered their doors (Cancer Treatment Centers of America-Tulsa), Mercy Fort Smith has grown access three-fold attempting to meet the communities' need. The result, though, is that cancer care has been spread over multiple locations across our campus and our physical capacity to serve more patients is exhausted. Ultimately, 30-40% of these newly diagnosed cancer patients must still leave our service area for care, most due to limitations in access.

The COVID-19 pandemic only served to exacerbate the situation. Patients who already struggled with financial, transportation and other barriers endured even greater hardship with many either delaying or foregoing timely screening and care altogether. Today, this means an even more significant bolus of cancer patients (delays, out-migration, annual growth) need expanded access to service—a volume that the region's healthcare infrastructure isn't prepared to handle. Additionally, for those able to access our services, the experience of a disconnected footprint often leads to confusion and stress, missed appointments, travel through other sick-patient areas of the facility, etc.—burdens that cancer patients don't need to bear.

Solution

Mercy is committed to finding the right solution to overcome this challenge. Over the last few years, we have explored multiple plans for how we might both simplify and expand the footprint of our cancer services in a way that ultimately meets the needs of patients across our region for many years to come. Working with HKS, a top-tier design firm based in Dallas with global experience in the healthcare industry, we are in the final stages of vetting two options: 1) expansion/consolidation of oncology services within the footprint of our existing flagship campus, 2) phased construction of a free-standing off-site cancer center near the existing campus. Of important note, either option will:

- **provide for the desired growth in providers:** we are already actively recruiting to more than double our current medical oncology and radiation oncology providers and to add surgical oncology specialists
- **incorporate identical technology:** plans include upgraded and additional linear accelerators; advanced radiation, mammography and imaging modalities; additional infusion chairs and more
- **expand patient access to meet delayed, out-migration and growth needs:** more providers, support staff and technology that, paired with an expanded footprint, will effectively double our patient panel capacity

These options include facility renovation/expansion ranging up to 90,000 square feet and estimated cost up to \$80M. Final option selection will be dependent on combined funding availability through Mercy ministry and philanthropic support. Specific facility planning and equipment purchases will continue through 2024 with construction intended to commence in the coming calendar year.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST
SECTION 36 OF ACT 796 OF 2023**

C.4

Agency: Arkansas Department of Public Safety - Division of Arkansas State Poli Business Area Code: 0960
 Program Title: Arkansas State Police Construction and Equipment Upgrades
 Granting Organization: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 CFDA #: State Fiscal Recovery Funds
 Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 9/1/2024 Ending: 6/30/2025

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):
 Arkansas State Police is requesting funding for enhanced security efforts of the Executive Protection Detail, including equipment and related professional services. IT Plan: ASP/IT Support Cost/Hardware Tab #1

American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding

Func. Area: SFTY Fund Code: NEW Direct Funding: _____
 Funds Center: NEW Internal Order/WBS Element: _____ State: X
 Continuation: _____

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	
Other: 590:00:46	1,200,000
Other:	
Total	\$ 1,200,000

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 12/31/2026 *Gary Zhou* 09/05/2024

DFA IGS State Technology Planning Date
 Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

Positions to be established: (list each position separately)

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Cmnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

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Approved by: *Col. MA A. Zhou #225* 8/9/2024 *Robert Brech* 09/05/24
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date



COL. MIKE A. HAGAR
Secretary

State of Arkansas
Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

1 State Police Plaza Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72209
Office: (501) 618-8235

August 31, 2024

Jim Hudson, Secretary
Department of Finance and Administration
Office of the Secretary
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 401
Little Rock, AR 72203-3278

Dear Secretary Hudson:

The Arkansas Department of Public Safety – Division of Arkansas State Police is requesting a release of \$1,200,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) for enhanced security efforts of the Executive Protection Detail, including equipment and related professional services.

Please contact our office at (501) 618-8333 if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Col. Mike A. Hagar #210". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Colonel Mike A. Hagar
Secretary