

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: S4/3/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 362

5 By: Senator K. Hammer
6
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR GRANTS TO YOUTH
10 ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
11 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR
12 THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
17 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
18 EDUCATION YOUTH ORGANIZATION GRANTS
19 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL
20 YEAR.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 *SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - YOUTH ORGANIZATION GRANTS. There is hereby*
26 *appropriated to the Department of Education, to be payable from the cash fund*
27 *deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of*
28 *the State, for grants to youth organizations by the Department of Education -*
29 *Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for the fiscal year ending*
30 *June 30, 2026, the following:*
31

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2025-2026
(01) YOUTH ORGANIZATION GRANTS	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

35
36 *SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS*



1 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. YOUTH
2 ORGANIZATION GRANT REQUIREMENTS.

3 (a) A grant authorized by this act shall be awarded to a youth
4 organization that does not compel or require a person to adopt, affirm, or
5 profess an idea in violation of Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
6 of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352 in accordance with any local or national
7 organization requirement that:

8 (1) Compels a person to adopt, affirm, or profess an idea in
9 violation of Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L.
10 No. 88-352, as it existed on January 1, 2025, including that:

11 (A) People of one color, creed, race, ethnicity, sex, age,
12 marital status, familial status, disability status, religion, national
13 origin, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law are
14 inherently superior or inferior to people of another color, creed, race,
15 ethnicity, sex, age, marital status, familial status, disability status,
16 religion, national origin, or any other characteristic protected by federal
17 or state law; or

18 (B) An individual should be discriminated against or
19 receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's color,
20 creed, race, ethnicity, sex, age, marital status, familial status, disability
21 status, religion, national origin, or any other characteristic protected by
22 federal or state law; or

23 (2) Requires a person or youth organization to adopt, affirm, or
24 profess an idea based on a diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative, which
25 includes:

26 (A) An office, division, department, administrator, or
27 person associated with a youth organization that has the purpose of:

28 (i) Influencing administrative, hiring, or
29 employment practices at a youth organization;

30 (ii) Promoting:

31 (a) Preferences based on race, color, sex,
32 ethnicity, or national origin;

33 (b) Differential treatment on the basis of
34 race, color, sex, ethnicity, or national origin; or

35 (c) Political or social activism to consider
36 race, color, sex, ethnicity, or national origin as factors in decision-

1 making, except when required by federal or state law; or

2 (iii) Any promotion described under subdivision
3 (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section that conflicts with state and federal
4 antidiscrimination laws;

5 (B) Any program, activity, applicant statement, or
6 training that promotes an activity described in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii) of
7 this section;

8 (C) The distribution of literature, materials, or other
9 information that promotes an activity described in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii)
10 of this section;

11 (D) The exposure to or distribution of materials through a
12 virtual platform that promote an activity described in subdivision
13 (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section or that violate Title IV or Title VI of the
14 Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352; or

15 (E) Soliciting an individual, either in person or through
16 a virtual platform, to subscribe to or otherwise adhere to an activity
17 described in subdivision (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section or that violates Title
18 IV or Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352.

19 (b) To be eligible for a grant authorized by this act, a youth
20 organization that is affiliated with a national organization shall submit an
21 official memorandum of understanding between the youth organization and
22 national organization that acknowledges the youth organization's intent to
23 comply with this act.

24 (c) A grant authorized by this act shall be provided to a youth
25 organization that aligns with the educational goals of the Governor and
26 General Assembly.

27 (d) A youth organization eligible for a grant under this act shall
28 promote the fundamental values of a healthy home environment and engage youth
29 to become role models in their homes, hometowns, schools, state, nation, and
30 the world.

31 (e) Funding shall be made available only to eligible entities for
32 comprehensive out-of-school time programs for school-aged children.

33 (f) To be eligible for a grant under this act, a youth organization
34 shall:

35 (1) Provide out-of-school time programs during the school year
36 to school-aged children;

1 (2) Provide regular activities designed for evidence-based
2 academic enhancement that aligns with and supports state curriculum standards
3 and includes at least two (2) of the following five (5) activity areas:

4 (A) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math);

5 (B) Academic support;

6 (C) Goal setting and leadership activities;

7 (D) Career exposure and workforce readiness; and

8 (E) Community service opportunities.

9 (3) Provide activities under subdivision (f)(2) as part of a
10 comprehensive out-of-school program;

11 (4) Operate for a minimum of the following, which shall not
12 include designated school breaks:

13 (A) Twelve (12) hours each week during the school year;

14 and

15 (B) Four (4) days each week during the school year;

16 (5) Collect data on participants' demographics, attendance, and
17 program participation, and compile statewide aggregated data;

18 (6) Implement rigorous safety standards, including without
19 limitation employee background checks and maintaining compliance with
20 mandated reporting laws; and

21 (7)(A) Be a qualified 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization that
22 has been in operation for more than five (5) years and has a record of fiscal
23 accountability.

24 (B) A youth organization shall provide a sustainability
25 model demonstrating a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of funding derived from
26 non-state resources.

27 (C) If a youth organization has operated for five (5)
28 years or less, the youth organization may provide a financial plan and have a
29 Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State to be approved by
30 the Department of Education.

31 (g) Youth Organizations holding a charter of five years or less shall be
32 eligible for a matching grant share of seventy-five (75%) using the funds
33 appropriated in this Act once certification that a twenty-five (25%) local
34 investment is made for the program.

35 (h) Youth Organizations holding a charter of greater than 5 years shall
36 be eligible for a matching grant share of fifty (50%) using the funds

1 appropriated in this Act once certification that a fifty (50%) local
2 investment is made for the program.

3 (i) If at any time it is determined by the department that a youth
4 organization has not followed requirements established by this section, the
5 youth organization shall not be eligible for any future grants.

6 (j) The Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary
7 Education shall promulgate rules for the determination of eligible youth
8 organizations, the disbursement of funds, and the ongoing administration of
9 this program in accordance with the requirements of this section.

10 (k) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July
11 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

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13 SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
14 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
15 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
16 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
17 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
18 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
19 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
20 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
21 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

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23 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
24 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
25 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
26 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
27 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
28 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
29 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
30 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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32 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
33 Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the
34 appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
35 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2025 is essential to the operation of
36 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in

1 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
2 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2025 could work irreparable harm
3 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
4 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
5 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
6 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2025.

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8 */s/K. Hammer*
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