

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2026
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1077

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
11 SERVICES - DIVISION OF COUNTY OPERATIONS FOR THE
12 FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15
16 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
17 SERVICES - DIVISION OF COUNTY OPERATIONS
18 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL
19 YEAR.
20
21
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established
26 for the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations for the
27 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.
28

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual
				Salary Rate Fiscal Year
				2026-2027
33	(1)	EEX22A HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE02
34	(2)	SSP03C DHS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC09
35	(3)	SSP07C SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR	5	GRADE SPC08
36	(4)	LAT04P ATTORNEY II	1	GRADE SPC05



1	(5)	SSP09C SOCIAL SERVICES AREA MANAGER	8	GRADE SGS11
2	(6)	SSP14C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER III	11	GRADE SGS10
3	(7)	CTR03C TRAINING MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
4	(8)	PQA02C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
5	(9)	SSP13C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER II	32	GRADE SGS09
6	(10)	SSP15C SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER	3	GRADE SGS09
7	(11)	SSP12C SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY MANAGER I	39	GRADE SGS08
8	(12)	PQA04P QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPVR/EXPERT	5	GRADE SGS08
9	(13)	SSP17P SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
10	(14)	CTR04P TRAINING SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	6	GRADE SGS08
11	(15)	IIV05P INVESTIGATOR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS07
12	(16)	PPE04P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SUPVR/EXPERT	187	GRADE SGS07
13	(17)	SSP11P SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SGS07
14	(18)	CTR02P TRAINER	21	GRADE SGS07
15	(19)	PPE03P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST II	152	GRADE SGS06
16	(20)	PQA03P QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST	27	GRADE SGS06
17	(21)	SSP16P SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
18	(22)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	21	GRADE SGS05
19	(23)	FBU03P BUDGET SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS05
20	(24)	FGM02P GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
21	(25)	IIV03P INVESTIGATOR II	20	GRADE SGS05
22	(26)	PPE02P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST I	978	GRADE SGS05
23	(27)	PAS07I COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR	35	GRADE SGS04
24	(28)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	14	GRADE SGS04
25	(29)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS04
26	(30)	FGM01P GRANTS ANALYST	7	GRADE SGS04
27	(31)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	417	GRADE SGS02
28	(32)	MPH03P PHYSICIAN	1	GRADE MED10
29	(33)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	2	GRADE MED05
30	(34)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	5	GRADE IST02
31	(35)	PPR02P PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS07
32		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	2,013	

33

34 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for
 35 the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Operations
 36 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or

1 temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds
 2 appropriated herein for such purposes: forty-three (43) temporary or part-
 3 time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in
 4 the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this
 5 act for the appropriate classification.

6
 7 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated,
 8 to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as
 9 determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services
 10 and operating expenses of the Department of Human Services - Division of
 11 County Operations - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
 12 following:

14 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
15 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
16 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$90,104,361
17 (02) EXTRA HELP	503,937
18 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	36,936,004
19 (04) OVERTIME	130,000
20 (05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
21 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	27,469,893
22 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	124,000
23 (C) PROF. FEES	19,037,338
24 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
25 (E) DATA PROC.	0
26 (06) DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	<u>20,356,228</u>
27 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$194,661,761</u>

28
 29 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS - STATE. There is hereby
 30 appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the
 31 Department of Human Services Grants Fund Account, for grant payments of the
 32 Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Grants - State
 33 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

35 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
36 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>

1 (01) AID TO AGED, BLIND, DISABLED \$4,000

2

3 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to
 4 the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as
 5 determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grant payments of
 6 the Department of Human Services - Division of County Operations - Grants for
 7 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

8

9 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
10 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
11 (01) COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT	\$13,943,475
12 (02) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE	
13 PROGRAM (SNAP)	5,378,754
14 (03) TANF BLOCK GRANT	<u>57,200,764</u>
15 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$76,522,993</u>

16

17 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - HUNGER COALITION. There is hereby
 18 appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the
 19 County Operations Fund Account, for grant payments of the Department of Human
 20 Services - Division of County Operations - Hunger Coalition for the fiscal
 21 year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

22

23 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
24 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
25 (01) HUNGER COALITION GRANTS AND AID	<u>\$995,113</u>

26

27 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - COUNTY OPERATIONS - MEDICAID TOBACCO
 28 SETTLEMENT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human
 29 Services, to be payable from the Medicaid Expansion Program Account, for
 30 personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Human Services
 31 - Division of County Operations - Medicaid Tobacco Settlement Program for the
 32 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

33

34 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
35 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
36 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,677,881

1	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	704,614
2	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
3	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	197,197
4	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
5	(C) PROF. FEES	0
6	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
7	(E) DATA PROC.	0
8	(04) DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	<u>50,000</u>
9	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,629,692</u></u>

10

11 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS. There
 12 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable
 13 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
 14 State, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of
 15 County Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

16

17	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
18	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
19	(01) EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE	<u><u>\$2,131,685</u></u>

20

21 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - SUMMER EBT. There is hereby appropriated,
 22 to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as
 23 determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for expenses associated
 24 with the Summer EBT of the Department of Human Services - Division of County
 25 Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

26

27	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
28	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
29	(01) SUMMER EBT	<u><u>\$50,555,398</u></u>

30

31 SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 32 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER
 33 OF TANF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS. Each fiscal year, the Department of Human
 34 Services shall transfer the sum of seven million five hundred thousand
 35 dollars (\$7,500,000) from the state's federal Temporary Assistance for Needy
 36 Families block grant to the Department of Education Division of Elementary

1 and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account to be used solely for the
2 Arkansas Better Chance Program.

3 If the state match for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant
4 or the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant is reduced, the
5 amount to be transferred may be adjusted in proportion to the percentage
6 change in the state match or the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy
7 Families grant. The amount to be transferred may also be reduced
8 proportionately if new cost requirements are imposed upon the state as a
9 result of new or revised Temporary Assistance for Needy Families regulations
10 at the federal level.

11 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
12 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

13

14 SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
15 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
16 RESTRICTIONS ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY
17 FAMILIES PROGRAM.

18 (a)(1) Determining the maximum number of employees, the maximum amount
19 of appropriation, for what purposes an appropriation is authorized, and
20 general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the
21 prerogative of the General Assembly.

22 (2) The purposes of subsection (a) of this section are typically
23 accomplished by:

24 (A) Identifying the purpose in the appropriation act;

25 (B) Delineating such maximums in the appropriation act for a
26 state agency; and

27 (C) Delineating the general revenue allocations authorized for
28 each fund and fund account by amendment to the revenue stabilization law.

29 (3) It is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly
30 restrict the use of appropriations authorized in this act.

31 (b)(1) Upon the request of the Governor or the General Assembly, the
32 Department of Human Services shall request a waiver from the federal
33 government to:

34 (A) Restrict the financial assistance granted to a recipient of
35 the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program or its successor program
36 to purchase goods and services that are considered essential and necessary

1 for the welfare of the family, including without limitation:

- 2 (i) Food;
- 3 (ii) Clothing;
- 4 (iii) Housing;
- 5 (iv) Utilities;
- 6 (v) Child care; and
- 7 (vi) Incidentals, including without limitation

8 transportation and medicine or medical supplies or equipment not covered by
9 either the Arkansas Medicaid Program or the health benefit plan of the
10 individual; and

11 (B) Restrict the cash withdrawal from an electronic benefit
12 transfer card account that receives financial assistance under the Temporary
13 Assistance for Needy Families Program or its successor program by electronic
14 benefit transfer system.

15 (2) If the federal government denies the waiver application, this
16 section shall not be implemented.

17 (3) If the division does not request a wavier under subdivision
18 (b)(1) of this section, the department shall not allocate, budget, expend, or
19 utilize appropriations under this act for the participation of persons in the
20 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

21 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
22 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

23
24 SECTION 12. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
25 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
26 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
27 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
28 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
29 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
30 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
31 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
32 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

33
34 SECTION 13. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
35 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
36 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for

1 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
2 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
3 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
4 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
5 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.
6

7 SECTION 14. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
8 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
9 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
10 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
11 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
12 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
13 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
14 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
15 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
16 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
17 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36