

By: Representatives Deweese,
Bennett, Creekmore IV, Currie,
McGee, Mickens, Read, Scott,
Turner

To: Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 20

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE
2 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

4 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
5 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
6 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Department of Human
7 Services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
8 June 30, 2026.....\$ 92,949,992.00.

9 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
10 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in any special fund in
11 the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Human
12 Services which is comprised of special source funds collected by
13 or otherwise available to the department for the support of the
14 various divisions of the department, for the purpose of defraying
15 the expenses of the department for the fiscal year beginning
16 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 1,578,105,219.00.

17 **SECTION 3.** None of the funds appropriated by this act shall
18 be expended for any purpose that is not actually required or



19 necessary for performing any of the powers or duties of the
20 Department of Human Services that are authorized by the
21 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, state or federal law, or rules
22 or regulations that implement state or federal law.

23 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
24 this act, not more than the following amount of funds, with the
25 exception of the provisions in this section, shall be expended
26 only for "Personal Services," which includes "Vacancy Funding,"
27 for the following authorized number of employment headcount:

28 FUNDING:

29 General Funds:	\$ 24,773,384.00
30 Special Funds:	\$ 89,082,885.00
31 Total Funds:	\$ 113,856,269.00

32 PERSONAL SERVICES:

33 Employee Salaries, Wages, and	
34 Fringe Benefits:	\$ 109,955,873.00
35 Progressions:	\$ 0.00
36 Vacancy Funding:	\$ 3,900,396.00
37 Total Personal Services:	\$ 113,856,269.00

38 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

39 Permanent:	1,302
40 Time-Limited:	353

41 As used in this section, the term "Personal Services" shall
42 mean funds provided under the major object of expenditure category



Personal Services for Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits. Funds in this category shall not be transferred to any other category.

It is the intention of the Legislature to ensure compliance with the Variable Compensation Plan, as outlined in Section 25-9-147, Mississippi Code of 1972. Payment from these funds shall be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan promulgated by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee's salary falls below the minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

The State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the projected annual cost of "Personal Services" based on monthly and year-to-date payroll expenditures in compliance with the provisions of this act.

With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that no single personnel action or combination of personnel actions, when annualized, exceeds the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation for "Personal Services" with the exception of escalated funds. Further, it shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi Legislature.

If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the



68 agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the
69 agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when
70 annualized for Fiscal Year 2026 or increase the need for "Personal
71 Services" for Fiscal Year 2027, when annualized, the State
72 Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as
73 the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with
74 the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the
75 agency.

76 When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds
77 included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and
78 designated for approved vacancies in Fiscal Year 2026. These funds
79 are to be utilized to increase the number of filled headcounts
80 that were authorized but unfilled as of the last day of Fiscal
81 Year 2025. If the agency fills additional headcounts after May 1,
82 2025, until the end of Fiscal Year 2025, the amount of available
83 Vacancy Funding may be proportionally reduced to reflect the
84 updated number of filled headcounts. The agency shall be
85 responsible for ensuring that "Vacancy Funding" is used to
86 increase headcounts and not for promotions, title changes,
87 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
88 salaries for current employees.

89 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
90 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
91 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
92 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written



93 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
94 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
95 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or headcounts
96 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
97 appropriated level. Unless specifically noted, all Fiscal Year
98 2025 escalated headcounts have been accounted for and shall be
99 converted to authorized time-limited headcounts.

100 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
101 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for
102 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are
103 withdrawn and no longer available.

104 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in
105 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A
106 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as
107 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

108 If the agency's total authorized headcount decreases from
109 Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026, it will be the agency's
110 discretion as to what headcounts are removed.

111 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
112 Department of Human Services shall maintain complete accounting
113 and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
114 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
115 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
116 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
117 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to



the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.

SECTION 6. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 herein to the Department of Human Services, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be transferred to the Department of Health, Child Care Licensure Program from the Child Care Development Fund or other appropriate special fund. These funds are to be transferred to the Board of Health no later than July 31, 2025. The Department of Health shall make a complete accounting to the Department of Human Services detailing the uses of these funds in accordance with federal and state regulations.

SECTION 7. It is the intention of the Legislature that whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price, quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids.

SECTION 8. The Department of Human Services is authorized to expend available funds on technology or equipment upgrades or replacements when it will generate savings through efficiency or when the savings generated from such upgrades or replacements exceed expenditures thereof.



SECTION 9. It is the intention of the Legislature that none of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain utilities for state furnished housing for any employees. Such utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane, cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined, the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance with legislative intent. Such state furnished housing shall include single-family and multi-family residences but shall not include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities shall be prohibited.

SECTION 10. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided below:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Support Services	
Percent of Referred/Directed	
Investigative Audits Conducted	100.00
Percent of Special Investigations Conducted	95.00
Percent of Referred/Obtained Fraud	
Investigations Conducted Timely	100.00



168	Percent of Referred Administrative	
169	Disqualification Hearings & Fair	
170	Hearings Conducted Timely	99.00
171	Percent of Monitoring Reviews Conducted	
172	within Acceptable Timeframes	98.00
173	Total Amount of Funds Recovered	3,500,000.00
174	Aging & Adult Services	
175	In-Home Services - Age 60 + (Persons Served)	18,680
176	Community Services - Age 60 + (Persons	
177	Served)	193,617
178	Number of Congregate Meals	468,272
179	Number of Home Delivered Meals	2,700,000
180	Substantiated Incidences of Abuse of	
181	Vulnerable Adults per 1,000 Population	0.17
182	Home Delivered Meals, Percent Reduction	
183	of Persons on Waiting list	1.00
184	Child Support Enforcement	
185	Increase the Number of Paternities	
186	Established	15,500
187	Percent Change in Paternities Established	3.30
188	Number of Obligations Established	16,000
189	Percent Change in Obligations Established	12.50
190	Total Collections	378,000,000.00
191	Percent Change in Total Collections	-2.50
192	Number of Absent Parents Located	68,000



193	Percent of Child Support Cases Current	
194	on Payments	-2.53
195	Community Services	
196	Number of Elderly Served by CSBG & LIHEAP	20,352
197	Number of Disabled Served CSBG/LIHEAP	26,762
198	Number of Households Weatherized	516
199	Early Childhood Care & Dev	
200	Number of Children Served	33,000
201	Assistance Payments	
202	Dollar Amount of Assistance	6,240,877.00
203	Food Assistance	
204	Number of Average Monthly Households	22,500
205	Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program	
206	- SNAP (\$)	716,413,100.00
207	Percent of Mississippi Households	
208	Receiving SNAP Benefits	22.51
209	TANF Work Program	
210	Number of Average Monthly TANF Households	8,864
211	Number of Average Monthly Persons Served	
212	in TANF Work Program	1,107
213	TANF Work Program Participation Rate (%)	60.00
214	Number of Persons Employed Through the	
215	TANF Work Program for the Year	832
216	Number of Households Receiving TANF	
217	Benefits During the Year	9,969



218	Percent of Households Receiving TANF	
219	During the Year	49.00
220	Percent of TANF Participants in Job Trng	
221	Who Enter Employment	30.00
222	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
223	Training Who Enter Employment at A	
224	Salary Sufficient to Be Ineligible for	
225	TANF	19.00
226	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
227	Training Who Remain Employed For: One	
228	Year After Leaving the Program	75.00
229	Percent of TANF Participants in Job	
230	Training Who Remain Employed For: Five	
231	Years After Leaving the Program	65.00
232	Social Services Block Grant	
233	Number of Clients Served, Division of	
234	Family & Children's Services	75,611
235	Number of Clients Served, Aging & Adult	
236	Services	21,178
237	Number of Clients Served, Youth Services	12,880
238	Youth Services	
239	Community Services (Children Served)	6,000
240	Institutional Component (Children Served)	130
241	Number of Volunteers - Community	
242	Services/Institution	0



to the Juvenile Facility Monitoring Unit at the Department of Public Safety no later than July 31, 2025.

SECTION 14. Of the funds appropriated herein, to the Department of Human Services One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), is provided for the support of the Home Delivered Meals Program and any additional funds that may be appropriated to this program.

SECTION 15. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Governor's Office, Division of Medicaid and the Department of Human Services shall continue to work together to implement Section 43-12-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, known as the "Medicaid and Human Services Transparency and Fraud Prevention Act".

SECTION 16. As a condition of receiving and expending any funds appropriated under this act, the Department of Human Services:

(a) Shall use a competitive procurement process for entering into all TANF subgrant agreements with non-state entities when the federal government does not direct to whom the funds must be subgranted;

(b) Upon awarding of a grant to any subgrantee of the department, shall require the subgrantee to submit a monthly report to the department that contains, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(i) A listing of all costs incurred by the subgrantee during the previous month;



(ii) A listing of all clients served by the subgrantee, with an explanation of which services were provided to the clients;

(iii) A listing of all lower-tier subgrantees, who must be approved by the department before the execution of any such agreement by the prime subgrantee; and

(iv) Any other data required by the department to provide sufficient evidence of budgetary compliance;

(c) Shall not advance funds to a subgrantee for more than sixty (60) days; and

(d) Shall reimburse a subgrantee for expenses only after the required documentation is provided and is approved by the department.

SECTION 17. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) is provided for childcare vouchers within the Child Care Program.

SECTION 18. It is the intent of the Legislature, that within the funds available, the Department of Human Services may provide any qualifying grants of CARES Act or American Rescue Act funding in an amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) to the three (3) regional food banks that serve Mississippi, including Feed the Gulf Coast, Mid-South Food Bank, and Mississippi Food Network.

SECTION 19. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Capital



316 Expense Fund not otherwise appropriated for the Department of
317 Human Services for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of
318 Capital Expense Funds, as authorized in HB 1797, 2024 Regular
319 Session to defray expenses of the Department of Human Services for
320 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026
321\$ 56,188,624.00.

322 This reappropriation is made for the following purposes:

323 (a) To defray the Department's computer expenses.....
324\$ 2,188,624.00.

325 (b) To secure federal funding for a new computer system.....
326\$ 54,000,000.00.

327 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
328 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
329 section, shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
330 remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the
331 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
332 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

333 **SECTION 20.** With the funds appropriated herein, the
334 Mississippi Department of Human Services is authorized to make
335 payments for expenses incurred during prior fiscal years for an
336 amount not to exceed Thirty-two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-five
337 Dollars and Seventy-six Cents (\$32,575.76). These payments are
338 for invoices from American Red Cross, Nsparc, LexisNexis, Mounting
339 High, LLC, Moses Electric, Inc., and Business Office Konnextions.



340 **SECTION 21.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
341 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
342 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
343 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
344 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
345 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.
346 **SECTION 22.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
347 and after July 1, 2025.

