

**Arkansas Community Services Block Grant Rule Manual FY 2024 and 2025 Update –  
Zoom Public Hearing Transcript 10/04/23 @ 10:00 CST**

**Mac Golden:** Good morning, everyone. It looks like we have a number of attendees today. I just wanted to let you know, due to technical issues we do not have full video for everyone. Welcome to the public hearing on the Arkansas Community Services Block Grant Rule Manual. These are updates for fiscal year 2024 and 2025. Beverly Buchanan of the Division of County Operations will be announcing the Notice of Rule Making. Then we will open the floor for public comments. Please utilize the raise hand feature via zoom if you'd like to make a comment. All official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website after the public comment period concludes. Ms. Buchanan will now read the notice of rulemaking.

**Beverly Buchanan:** Notice of Rule Making.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) announces for a public comment period of thirty (30) calendar days a notice of rulemaking for the following proposed rule under one or more of the following chapters, subchapters, or sections of the Arkansas Code: §§20-76-201, 20-77-107, 20-80-301 to 311, and 25-10-129. This notice also serves for the public comment period of thirty (30) calendar for the Community Services Block Grant State Plan renewal as required under 42 U.S.C. § 9901 et seq.

The Director of the Division of County Operations, Office of Community Services (DDCO/OCS), is the agency designated by the Governor to administer and distribute Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds. The agency amends the Community Services Block Grant Manual, with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2024. The manual updates coincide with the intent to renew the State Plan for distribution of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The plan allocates Community Action Agencies (CAA) in the state to provide essential services intended to assist low-income citizens of Arkansas in becoming self-sufficient.

The CSBG Rule Manual governs the operation of the CSBG State Plan and integrates and aligns requirements from the CSBG Act with elements of the overall CSBG Performance Management and Accountability framework. Updates to the manual for this cycle include: (1) revisions reflecting FY 2024 and 2025; (2) reformatting of the manual; (3) revised language to ensure consistent terminology and dates throughout all sections; (4) revised introductory sections to conform current language used by DHS; (5) replaced all references to the DHS Office of Community Services (OCS) with current title, DHS Office of Program Planning and Community Grant Services (OPPCGS) and updated current terminology regarding Supplemental Nutritional Assistance and Health Care; (6) created Section VII – Client Eligibility that explains client income eligibility determinations, including the definitions for income and income determination period, determination process, documentation, designation and re-designation, verification, group services, program supporting, residency requirements, performance reporting, monitoring, audit requirements, training, technical assistance, and other circumstances affecting eligibility based on relationships, past events, and ongoing situations including termination and reduction of funding; (7) where applicable, deleted old language now covered by Section VII or re-titled them; and (8) added references and summaries to the CSBG Act.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 23-02, DHS repeals the following two rules as part of this promulgation: (1) DDS Policy 1013 - Confidentiality, and (2) DDS Policy 1024 – Education Compliance Community Programs.

The CSBG State Plan is available for review at the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Rules Promulgation, 2nd floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P. O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437. You may also access and download the CSBG State Plan on the DHS website at [ar.gov/dhs-proposed-rules](http://ar.gov/dhs-proposed-rules). Public comments must be submitted in writing at the above address or at the following email address: [ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov). All public comments must be received by DHS no later than October 21, 2023. Please note that public comments submitted in response to this notice are considered public documents. A public comment, including the commenter's name and any personal information contained within the public comment, will be made publicly available and may be seen by various people.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact the Office of Rules Promulgation at 501-320-6266.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services complies with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated, managed and delivers services without regard to religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, age, race, color or national origin.

**Mac Golden:** Thank you Miss Buchanan. We will now open the floor for public comments. Please let the record reflect that we have 28 attendees for today's public hearing. If any attendee would like to make a public comment, please utilize the raised hand feature now. You will be recognized to give a public comment. I will pause for a few seconds to give everyone an opportunity to use the feature.

It does not appear anyone wishes to make a public comment today. If you would like to submit a public comment public by October 21, please email my office at [ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov). We will respond on our proposed rule website thereafter.

I would like to thank everyone for attending today's public hearing. We will now consider it closed.