

**Social Services Block Grant**  
**Zoom Public Hearing (05/28/25 @ 10:00 AM CST)**

**Mac Golden:** Barry, you ready to start?

**Barry Rowland:** Yes sir, it's recording.

**Mac Golden:** Welcome everyone to a public hearing regarding the Social Services Block Grant. I will read the notice and then I will open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a comment on the record, please utilize the raise hand feature in Zoom. Any DHS response to the comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website after the comment period concludes. I will now read the notice of rulemaking or the notice of the Social Services Block Grant pre-expenditure report.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) hereby gives notice of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Intended Use Plan and Pre-Expenditure Report to the citizens of Arkansas for review and comment. The report reflects DHS's plans to expend SSBG funds for the 2026 state fiscal year, July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This notice is given pursuant to the requirements of Title XX, Section 2004 of the Social Security Act (as enacted in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 [P.L.97-35] and codified at 42 U.S.C. 1397c).

The SSBG documents mentioned above are available for review at the Department of Human Services Office of Policy and Rules, 2nd floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P. O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437. You may access and download this notice on the DHS website at [ar.gov forward slash dhs-proposed-rules](https://ar.gov/forward/slash/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 May 30, 2025. 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.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and operates, manages and delivers services without regard to religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, age, race, color or national origin. Signed Renee Ikard, Chief Financial Officer of the Office of Finance, Department of Human Services.

If anyone would like to make public comment at this time, please utilize the raise hand feature. You will be recognized to give your comment.

Barry, it looks like Mr. Landreneau now would like to give a public comment.

Mr. Landreneau now you're recognized to give your comment. Sir

**Joel Landreneau:** Yes. Can you hear me now?

**Mac Golden:** Yes, sir.

**Joel Landreneau:** Okay, great. So, I'm probably the only one in the room and really, the only comment I want to make is to make clear on the record that I think that the amount of notices given for review and public comment on this matter is, it can't possibly be sufficient. If you can't, 3 days' notice is probably not complying with whatever process you guys have to comply with in order to have meaningful public input onto the decisions that are reflected in the spending priorities in this document. I don't really necessarily object to those spending priorities. In fact, I can't even, I didn't even have time to look at what the existing priorities are to see if this any kind of a change or redistribution on how this money has been spent in the past. There hasn't been time. So, I just, it looked like to me that this notice and this public hearing it was just put out there hastily for the sake of being able to say that you did it, but without any meaningful opportunity for input and I'd like to note my objections to that.

**Mac Golden:** Thank you. Mr. Landreneau. Your comment is recorded on the record. Is there anyone else who'd like to make a public comment today?

Please let the record reflect we have 6 attendees for today's public hearing, and it does not appear that anyone else wishes to make public comment. We thank you for attending this public hearing and we'll now go off the record.