

NARRATIVE
2026 BUDGET REQUEST

State Department of Health (301-00)

Name of Agency

The Mississippi State Department of Health is requesting an overall additional \$1,600,000 in State General Funds and a decrease of \$5,927,416 in spending authority.

Office of MS Physician Workforce - \$3,000,000 in General Funds

The agency is requesting state general funds for the Office of MS Physician Workforce to offer three residency programs at Institutions of Higher Learning in the State at \$1,000,000 each.

Patient Navigation - \$1,000,000 in General Funds

The agency is requesting state general funds to hire enrollment specialists across the state to assist with patient navigation of the Marketplace. Many citizens are not aware of the possible insurance benefits available in the Marketplace. The agency would be able to provide citizen education and assistance with enrollment in Marketplace. Having affordable insurance or any insurance, would decrease the overall medical costs to the state of Mississippi.

The items above total \$4,000,000. However, when you consider the decrease of \$2,400,000 in the general funds reappropriated for the VOCA program that are not necessary in budget year 2026, the net increase is only \$1,600,000.

Transfer of Salary Funds and Positions to the Local Government Rural Water Budget (302-00) - Special Fund Fees Spending Authority Reduction of \$948,437

We are requesting nine positions and the related salaries amount (\$948,437) be moved from the Health Budget 301-00 to the Local Governments & Rural Water Budget 302-00. Currently these staff are paid from the 301-00 budget and the agency processes transfers during the year from 302-00 to 301-00 in order to cover the expenses. These staff work directly for the LGRWSIB and should be placed in this budget instead of the 301-00 budget. This will allow for better transparency and a reduction in paperwork.

The remaining spending authority reductions are related to one-time special funds or reappropriations that are detailed in the State Support Special Funds section below.