

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2027 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2024 and 2025, Working Families Tax Cut Act, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026, and the President’s Budget request for 2027. Amounts for 2026 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the “Working Families Tax Cut Act” is used to refer to the Public Law 119-21.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of small non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1). Due to rounding, some tables may not sum exactly.

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Office of Homeland Security (OHS) provides leadership in national security through the development and execution of departmental policy, the support of emergency preparedness and response initiatives, and the coordination of threat mitigation activities to ensure a more resilient Department. OHS mitigates risk and safeguards USDA personnel, customers, assets, and information by leading Government-wide initiatives and championing USDA’s interests in homeland and national security. OHS is responsible for Departmental emergency operations, continuity of operations, training and exercises, security clearances, classified information, safety of ionizing radiation, intelligence, defensive counterintelligence, and coordinating all homeland and national security policy, planning, and preparedness activities for USDA.

The general authority of the OHS for managing all activities relating to homeland security is contained in 7 U.S.C. 6922 with additional details codified in 7 CFR 2.95. OHS directly supports implementation of the Secretary’s National Farm Security Action Plan. OHS actively supports this plan to protect America’s food system as a critical national security asset, focusing on securing farmland from foreign adversaries, making supply chains resilient, supporting the protection of agriculture research, and safeguarding plant/animal health against bio-threats. Additionally, OHS activities and funding support countering biological threats, strengthening the Food and Agriculture critical infrastructure sector, and building resilience across the agricultural supply chain in the face of threats from our adversaries, strategic competition, and supply chain disruptions.

OHS is headquartered in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2025, there were 54 full-time permanent employees, which includes 20 Working Capital Fund staff.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

Table OHS-1. Closed, Implemented GAO Reports

ID	Date Opened	Date Closed	Title	Result
21-513	08/04/2021	01/22/2025	Biodefense: After-Action Findings and COVID-19 Response	Recommendation 1 – The Secretary of Agriculture should work through the Biodefense Coordination Team to establish a process to periodically assess and communicate exercise priorities.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTEs

Table OHS-2. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024	2025		2026		2027		
	Actual	FTEs	Estimated FTEs	Estimated FTEs	Estimated FTEs	Estimated FTEs	Estimated FTEs	
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary								
Appropriations	\$1,896	4	\$1,896	4	\$1,700	4	\$15,259	38
Total Discretionary								
Appropriations	1,896	4	1,896	4	1,896	4	15,259	38
Lapsing Balances	-7	-	-201	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	1,889	4	1,695	4	1,700	4	15,259	38
Other USDA:								
Radiation Safety.....	1,191	3	1,238	3	1,293	3	-	-
Personnel and Document								
Security	4,647	19	4,741	20	5,130	20	-	-
Security Operations.....	6,966	19	7,378	21	7,348	21	7,348	21
Other Reimbursable								
Program	2,681	6	3,853	6	3,177	6	3,177	6
Total Other USDA	15,485	47	17,210	50	16,978	50	10,555	27
Total Available, OHS.....	17,381	51	19,106	54	18,678	54	25,814	65

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs

Table OHS-3. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2024			2025			2026			2027		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
SES.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15	6	-	7	6	1	7	6	1	7	7	1	8
GS-14	17	1	16	10	5	15	10	5	15	14	4	18
GS-13	10	1	9	9	2	11	9	2	11	11	2	13
GS-12	8	1	8	13	1	14	13	1	14	13	1	14
GS-11	6	1	3	4	-	4	4	-	4	6	-	6
GS-09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
GS-07	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
Total												
Permanent	49	4	53	44	9	53	44	9	53	57	8	65
Total Perm. FT												
EOY.....	49	4	53	44	9	53	44	9	53	57	8	65
FTE*	48	3	51	45	9	54	45	9	54	57	8	65

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**Table OHS-4. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)**

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA Contact Center.....	\$3	\$3	-	-
General Counsel Legal Compliance	-	-	\$7	\$7
Human Resources Enterprise System				
Management.....	2	2	5	5
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	17	15	18	18
Mail and Reproduction Management Division	44	54	50	50
Material Management Service Center.....	12	11	9	9
Personnel and Document Security Program	1	3	3	-
Procurement Operations Division	-	-	45	45
Subtotal	79	88	137	134
Finance and Management:				
Internal Control Support Services.....	13	11	-	-
Financial Management Support Services	201	214	295	295
Financial Shared Services.....	103	82	67	67
National Finance Center	5	-	15	15
Subtotal.....	322	307	377	377
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	455	448	350	349
Department Administration Information				
Technology Office.....	323	371	300	-
Digital Infrastructure Services Center.....	114	56	51	343
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services.....	46	36	44	44
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services.....	65	35	26	26
Enterprise Network Services	123	67	93	93
Subtotal	1,126	1,013	864	855
Correspondence Management Services:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	16	10	8	8
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	1,543	1,418	1,386	1,374
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Agency Partnership Outreach	1	3	1	1
Employee Experience	1	1	-	-
Medical Services	5	-	-	-
NCR Interpreting Services.....	2	4	4	4
Office of Customer Experience	-	1	-	-
Physical Security	1	2	1	1
Security Detail	1	3	6	6
Security Operations.....	1	2	3	3
Talent Group	1	1	-	-
TARGET Center.....	-	1	-	-
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs .	13	18	14	14
Agency Total	1,556	1,436	1,401	1,389

ACCOUNT 1: OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored):

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, [~~\$46,361,000~~]\$64,987,000 of which not to exceed [~~\$7,000,000~~]\$5,964,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary[, of which \$500,000 shall be for the establishment of a Seafood Industry Liaison]; not to exceed [~~\$1,700,000~~]\$15,259,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed [~~\$5,190,000~~]\$5,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations, of which \$1,000,000 shall be to continue a Tribal Public Health Resource Center at a land grant university with existing indigenous public health expertise to expand current partnerships and collaborative efforts with indigenous groups to improve the delivery of public health services and functions in American Indian communities focusing on indigenous food sovereignty; not to exceed [~~\$5,250,000~~]\$1,998,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement[, of which \$1,500,000 shall be for 7 U.S.C. 2279(c)(5)]; not to exceed [~~\$18,721,000~~]\$28,269,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which [~~\$17,015,000~~]\$26,969,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed \$3,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed [~~\$5,000,000~~]\$4,997,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$22,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency[: *Provided further*, That during any 30 day notification period referenced in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form].

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table OHS-5. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Enacted, 2026	\$1,700,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>+13,559,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2027	<u>15,259,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table OHS-6. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Office of Homeland Security.....	\$1,896	4	\$1,896	4	\$1,700	4	\$15,259	38	+\$13,559	+34	(1)
Total Appropriation....	1,896	4	1,896	4	1,700	4	15,259	38	+13,559	+34	
Total Available	1,896	4	1,896	4	1,700	4	15,259	38	+13,559	+34	
Lapsing Balances	-7	-	-201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations....	1,889	4	1,695	4	1,700	4	15,259	38	+13,559	+34	

Table OHS-7. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Discretionary Obligations:										
Office of Homeland Security									+\$13,55	
Total Obligations.....	1,889	4	1,695	4	1,700	4	15,259	38	+13,559	+34
Lapsing Balances	7	-	201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	1,896	4	1,896	4	1,700	4	15,259	38	+13,559	+34
Total Appropriation	1,896	4	1,896	4	1,700	4	15,259	38	+13,559	+3

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Office of Homeland Security

Base funding for the Office of Homeland Security provides leadership in national security through the development and execution of departmental policy, the support of emergency preparedness and response initiatives, and the coordination of threat mitigation activities to ensure a more resilient Department and Nation. OHS is a center of excellence for emergency management and homeland security known for leadership, innovation, and service for the benefit of USDA and stakeholders. This involves coordination with Mission Areas, Agencies and Office for policy formulation, response plans, reporting, as well as action assignments to meet acute and major threats to the Nation’s food and agriculture systems and key USDA assets. It also involves activation of the USDA incident management system and the Federal Response Plan responsibilities in the event of a major incident; oversight of USDA nationwide policies and procedures related to homeland and national security; and coordination with the National Security Council, Federal Intelligence Community, Department of Homeland Security and other Federal agencies, public and private organizations. OHS mitigates risk and safeguards USDA personnel, customers, assets, and information by leading Governmentwide initiatives and championing USDA’s equities in homeland and national security. OHS is responsible for Departmental emergency operations, continuity of operations, training and exercises, security clearances, classified information, safety of ionizing radiation, and coordinating all homeland and national security policy, planning, and preparedness activities for USDA. In accordance with administration policy announced in the Budget, OHS will follow new government-wide grants guidance prohibiting the use of Federal funds to pay for subscriptions to academic journals, as well as for the publication of research results that are not specifically required by Federal statute or approved in advance by a Federal agency. This policy preserves funds to support actual research by ensuring that the American taxpayer does not pay for the research, publication, and access to that research, essentially triple-charging the public for the same product.

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

1. An increase of \$13,559,000 and 34 FTEs to the Office of Homeland Security (\$1,700,000 and 4 FTEs available in 2026).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A. An increase of \$196,000 for Office of Homeland Security.

This funding increase is a reinstatement to full funding level for OHS and directly supports implementation of the Secretary’s National Farm Security Action Plan. OHS actively supports this plan to protect America’s food system as a critical national security asset, focusing on securing farmland from foreign adversaries, making supply chains resilient, supporting the protection of agriculture research, and safeguarding plant/animal health against bio-threats. Without the reinstatement of these funds, as threats and vulnerabilities continue to grow, OHS will be unable to fully support this mission and responsibilities which could have a significant impact on the safety and security of U.S. agriculture.

- B. An increase of \$13,363,000 for Homeland Security related expenses.

This increase of \$13,363,000 for National Security Related Expenses, being realigned to the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), will enhance efficiency and effectiveness within USDA. This strategic realignment will centralize resources under OHS, which provides leadership in national security through policy development, emergency preparedness and response initiatives, and threat mitigation coordination. Consolidating the budget under OHS eliminates redundancies, ensures more coordinated resource allocation, and improves the execution of departmental security policies, ultimately bolstering the USDA’s resilience and readiness without compromising overall security.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs

Table OHS-8. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Office of Homeland Security (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
District of Columbia	\$1,889	4	\$1,695	4	\$1,700	4	\$15,139	37
Florida	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	1
Obligations	1,889	4	1,695	4	1,700	4	15,259	38
Lapsing Balances	7	-	201	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	1,896	4	1,896	4	1,700	4	15,259	38

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table OHS-9. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$664	\$734	\$752	\$6,985
	Personnel Compensation, Field	-	-	-	-
11	Total personnel compensation	664	734	752	6,985
12	Personal benefits	218	240	264	387
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	882	974	1,016	7,372
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	22	22	22	178
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	2	2	2	2
	Communications, utilities, and misc.				
23.3	charges.....	14	11	5	133
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	-	1	1	14
25.0	Other contractual services.....	-	-	-	-
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	676	199	173	215
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources ...	11	27	23	5,077
	Other goods and services from Federal				
25.3	sources	-	2	2	1,648
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	276	430	425	520
25.5	Research and development contracts	1	1	1	1
25.6	Medical Care	-	26	25	25
26.0	Supplies and materials	4	6	5	33
31.0	Equipment	2	-	-	41
	Total, Other Objects	1,007	721	684	7,887
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	1,889	1,695	1,700	15,259
DHS Building Security Payments					
	(included in 25.3).....	\$8	\$8	\$8	\$8
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position ..	\$199,000	\$203,000	\$207,000	\$211,000
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position ..	\$146,000	\$162,000	\$164,000	\$165,000
	Average Grade, GS Position	14.5	14.5	14.6	14.6