AN ACT

Providing for the Emergency COVID-19 Homelessness Grant Program; imposing duties on the Department of Human Services; and making an appropriation.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency COVID-19 Homelessness Grant Program Act.

Section 2. Declaration of policy.

The General Assembly intends that grants provided under the program be used to support a not-for-profit organization, county government or municipal government that provides community-based services, programs and activities conducive to secure shelter, housing, food, essential supplies, public assistance benefits and sanitation and personal hygiene measures to protect the health and well-being of individuals who are homeless.

Section 3. Definitions.
The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Department." The Department of Human Services of the Commonwealth.

"Individual who is homeless." An individual who:

(1) lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence;
(2) will imminently lose a primary nighttime residence;
(3) is an unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or a member of a family with at least one child, if the unaccompanied youth or family member does not have a residential lease, ownership interest or occupancy agreement in permanent housing or experiences persistent housing instability; or
(4) is fleeing domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or any other violence-related or life-threatening living condition that has taken place within the individual's primary residence.

"Personal protective equipment." Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious injuries and illnesses.

"Program." The Emergency COVID-19 Homelessness Grant Program established under this act.

Section 4. Establishment of program.

A program is established within the department, to be known as the Emergency COVID-19 Homelessness Grant Program, to provide grants in an amount determined by the department to eligible not-for-profit organizations, county governments or municipal governments for community-based services, programs and activities that support individuals who are homeless.
Section 5. Applications.

(a) Development and availability.--Grant application forms shall be developed by the department and be made available on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

(b) Compliance.--The department shall verify in writing on each grant application that the application complies with all the requirements under section 6.

Section 6. Requirements.

The department shall award grants to an eligible not-for-profit organization, county government or municipal government that has been approved by the department for any of the following purposes:

(1) Shelter or securing part-time or full-time housing.

(2) Food and essential supplies.

(3) Sanitation and personal hygiene measures, including, but not limited to, outdoor latrines, hand-washing stations and personal protective equipment.

(4) Any other related services that support individuals who are homeless.

(5) The capital needs of the not-for-profit organization, county government or municipal government, including, but not limited to, administrative costs and payroll.

Section 7. Powers and duties of department.

The department shall promulgate rules, regulations and directives that the department deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Section 8. Awarding of grants.

(a) Authorization.--The department shall award grants to eligible not-for-profit organizations, county governments or
municipal governments that have been approved by the department
to achieve the purposes specified under this act.

(b) Amount.--A grant amount may not exceed a maximum of
$250,000 for each not-for-profit organization, county government
or municipal government approved under this act.

Section 9. Appropriation.

For fiscal year 2021-2022, the sum of $5,000,000 shall be
appropriated from the General Fund to the department for the
program.

Section 10. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.