AN ACT

Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), entitled
"An act relating to the finances of the State government;
providing for cancer control, prevention and research, for
ambulatory surgical center data collection, for the Joint
Underwriting Association, for entertainment business
financial management firms, for private dam financial
assurance and for reinstatement of item vetoes; providing for
the settlement, assessment, collection, and lien of taxes,
bonus, and all other accounts due the Commonwealth, the
collection and recovery of fees and other money or property
due or belonging to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
including escheated property and the proceeds of its sale,
the custody and disbursement or other disposition of funds
and securities belonging to or in the possession of the
Commonwealth, and the settlement of claims against the
Commonwealth, the resettlement of accounts and appeals to the
courts, refunds of moneys erroneously paid to the
Commonwealth, auditing the accounts of the Commonwealth and
all agencies thereof, of all public officers collecting
moneys payable to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
and all receipts of appropriations from the Commonwealth,
authorizing the Commonwealth to issue tax anticipation notes
to defray current expenses, implementing the provisions of
section 7(a) of Article VIII of the Constitution of
Pennsylvania authorizing and restricting the incurring of
certain debt and imposing penalties; affecting every
department, board, commission, and officer of the State
government, every political subdivision of the State, and
certain officers of such subdivisions, every person,
association, and corporation required to pay, assess, or
collect taxes, or to make returns or reports under the laws
imposing taxes for State purposes, or to pay license fees or
other moneys to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
every State depository and every debtor or creditor of the Commonwealth," in emergency COVID-19 response, establishing the Community Health Outreach and Vaccination Support Program; and making an appropriation.

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

Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 135-C. Community Health Outreach and Vaccination Support Program.

(a) Establishment.--The Community Health Outreach and Vaccination Support Program is established within the department to make grants under this section.

(b) Eligibility.--A nonprofit organization shall be eligible to apply for a grant under the program if the nonprofit organization:

1. Has demonstrated experience and expertise in implementing public health programs, particularly in medically underserved areas and across broad geographic areas.

2. Has established relationships with the Department of Health or State or local public health departments.

3. Can demonstrate the ability to provide services to areas and populations not being reached by current COVID-19 vaccination and response efforts.

4. Can clearly describe the partnerships formed at the regional and local level to directly assist individuals in receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. The partnerships may include organizations such as community-based organizations and other health and social service organizations that can directly hire community outreach workers from the vulnerable and medically underserved communities that they will serve.
and can reach out to communities or populations with low COVID-19 vaccination rates.

(c) Use of money.—A grant under this section may only be used for the purpose of outreach efforts with the purpose of educating persons in the community of the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccination, including:

(1) Local media buys for advertising and public service announcements involving television, radio, newspapers, magazines, blogs and websites.

(2) Community events.

(3) Mobilization efforts to educate and assist individuals in accessing and receiving COVID-19 vaccinations, including making COVID-19 vaccination appointments, providing resources to find convenient COVID-19 vaccination locations and assisting individuals with transportation.

(4) Administrative costs related to the outreach efforts.

(d) Application.—

(1) The department shall develop grant application forms.

(2) At a minimum, the forms shall contain the following information:

(i) The name, address and contact information of the applicant.

(ii) A description of the applicant and eligibility, including any documentation of proof as required by the department.

(iii) The amount of grant money requested.

(iv) The proposed use for the grant money requested.

(v) Any other information that the department deems
necessary and appropriate.

(3) The forms shall be posted on the publicly accessible Internet website of the department.

(e) Limitation.--A nonprofit organization shall not receive program grant money totaling more than $50,000.

(f) Review and determination.--After review of the information provided under each applicant's submitted application form, the department shall determine whether to award grant money to the applicant and, if so, the amount of the grant money awarded. The award shall give special consideration to a nonprofit organization that will serve communities or populations with low COVID-19 vaccination rates.

(g) Appropriation.--In addition to any other money appropriated to the department for grants under this section, the sum of $5,000,000 is appropriated to the department from money received by the Commonwealth under Title IX, Subtitle M, section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 4) and deposited into the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account for the purpose of making grants under this section.

(h) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

"Department." The Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth.

"Institution of higher education." As defined in section 20210HB1622PN1798 - 4 -
118(c) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

"Nonprofit organization." As follows:

(1) An entity that is:

   (i) organized as a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit unincorporated association under the laws of the United States or this Commonwealth; or

   (ii) authorized to do business in this Commonwealth as a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit unincorporated association under the laws of this Commonwealth.

(2) The term includes a religious institution, a faith-based organization and an institution of higher education.

"Program." The Community Health Outreach and Vaccination Support Program.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.