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 American Rescue Plan Rental and Utility Assistance Grant Program, providing for additional funding.

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

Section 1. Article I-E of 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 106-E. Additional funding.

Notwithstanding a provision of this act to the contrary, the sum of $500,000,000 shall be transferred from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account to the department to be distributed to counties as follows:

(1) No later than 30 calendar days after the effective date of this section, each county shall certify to the department, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the department, the total number of applications to participate in the program that the county has received, as of the effective date of this section, for which the county does not have sufficient funds directly from the following sources to provide assistance:

(i) the Federal Government under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182) or the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 4); and

(ii) the department under Article I-D and this article.

(2) If a county certifies that it does not have sufficient funds under paragraph (1), the county certification shall include an estimate of the number of applications for which the county does not have sufficient funds to provide assistance and an estimate of the total funds to provide assistance and an estimate of the total
amount of funds necessary to provide assistance to those applications. The estimate of the total amount of funds necessary to provide assistance to those applications shall be determined by multiplying the number of applications which the county has certified under paragraph (1) by the average amount of assistance provided per funded application in the county. If a county does not certify within the time frame described under this section, the county shall be ineligible to receive additional funding under this section.

(3) No later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the certification from counties under paragraph (1), the department shall distribute funds received under this section to the counties that have certified a need for additional funding. The certification from the county shall be used by the department to determine the total amount requested by the county. To the extent possible, the department shall provide funds to the counties that are unable to provide assistance to at least 25% of their outstanding applications that have been determined otherwise eligible for a payment as of the date of the county's certification under paragraph (1). If the total amount of funds requested from counties exceeds the total amount of funds available, the department shall distribute the funding under this section on a pro rata basis.

(4) The department shall require counties that receive funds under this section to submit a quarterly report on the amount of funds spent and, if any, remaining funds. The report shall be in a form and manner determined by the department, and, to the extent possible, the department shall ensure that the reporting requirements align with reporting
requirements under Article I-D or this article.

(5) Distribution of the funds under this section shall be expedited and occur no later than 90 days after the effective date of this section. The funds remaining after June 30, 2023, shall lapse and be deposited into the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.