

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2790 Session of  
2020

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, SNYDER, MADDEN, KINSEY, GALLOWAY,  
CALTAGIRONE, WEBSTER, WILLIAMS, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS,  
MALAGARI, McNEILL, HANBIDGE, GREEN, LEE, SANCHEZ, READSHAW,  
A. DAVIS, DONATUCCI, LONGIETTI, DEASY, DeLUCA, KENYATTA,  
WARREN, KIM AND DRISCOLL, AUGUST 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, AUGUST 13, 2020

AN ACT

1 Establishing the COVID-19 Mitigation Grant Program for small  
2 businesses.

3 Section 1. Short title.

4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the COVID-19  
5 Mitigation Grants for Small Businesses Act.

6 Section 2. Definitions.

7 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
8 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
9 context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

12 "Disaster emergency." The proclamation of disaster emergency  
13 issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B.  
14 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster  
15 emergency.

16 "Grant." A grant awarded under the COVID-19 Mitigation Grant

1 Program.

2 "Program." The COVID-19 Mitigation Grant Program.

3 "Secretary." The Secretary of Community and Economic  
4 Development of the Commonwealth.

5 "Small business." A retail or personal service employer  
6 within this Commonwealth:

7 (1) whose gross annual receipts for the prior fiscal  
8 year did not exceed \$1,500,000; or

9 (2) that employs no more than 10 full-time employees.

10 Section 3. COVID-19 Mitigation Grant Program.

11 (a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Mitigation Grant Program is  
12 established in the department to provide grants to small  
13 businesses for mitigation efforts to prevent the spread of  
14 COVID-19.

15 (b) Use of grant money.--Grant money awarded by the  
16 department shall be used by the small business to follow health  
17 and safety guidelines established by the department or the  
18 Department of Health and to implement COVID-19 mitigation  
19 efforts to protect its employees and customers, including all of  
20 the following:

21 (1) Contactless payment methods.

22 (2) Protective barriers.

23 (3) Personal protective equipment for employees and  
24 customers.

25 (4) Other mitigation efforts approved by the department.

26 (c) Amount.--Subject to the availability of program funds, a  
27 a small business that meets the requirements under section 4 may  
28 be awarded a one-time grant not exceed \$15,000.

29 Section 4. Eligibility.

30 A small business is eligible for a grant if it meets the

1 following requirements:

2 (1) has been financially harmed by the COVID-19  
3 pandemic; and

4 (2) any of the following:

5 (i) is deemed life-sustaining by the Commonwealth;

6 (ii) is granted a waiver to operate during the  
7 disaster emergency; or

8 (iii) operates in a county that has been designated  
9 by executive action to be in the Yellow Phase or Green  
10 Phase.

11 Section 5. Application.

12 (a) Development of application.--The department shall create  
13 and implement an application for small businesses applying for  
14 the program.

15 (b) Contents of application.--The application shall include  
16 all of the following information:

17 (1) The name, address and contact information for the  
18 small business.

19 (2) The amount of grant money requested.

20 (3) The intended use of the grant money and any  
21 mitigation efforts the small business plans to undertake.

22 (4) The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and  
23 the disaster emergency on the small business.

24 (5) Any other information deemed necessary by the  
25 department.

26 Section 6. Public notice.

27 The department shall provide information regarding the  
28 application for the program and award of grant money on its  
29 publicly accessible Internet website.

30 Section 7. Appropriation.

1       The sum of \$50,000,000 is appropriated from the CARES Act  
2 Fund to the department to administer the program.

3 Section 8. Reporting.

4       Following the termination or expiration of the disaster  
5 emergency, the department shall post on its publicly accessible  
6 Internet website the recipients of grants and the amount of  
7 grant money awarded.

8 Section 9. Guidelines.

9       The department may implement guidelines for the  
10 administration of this act.

11 Section 10. Expiration.

12       This act shall expire three months after the disaster  
13 emergency has been rescinded.

14 Section 11. Effective date.

15       This act shall take effect in 30 days.