
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2791 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, T. DAVIS, KOSIEROWSKI, BRIGGS, GALLOWAY,
HARKINS, McNEILL, LONGIETTI, SAINATO, MADDEN, DALEY,
MALAGARI, ZABEL, MERSKI, KIRKLAND, KULIK, DELLOSO, HILL-
EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, McCARTER, ULLMAN, FREEMAN,
NEILSON, KENYATTA, DONATUCCI, HANBIDGE, KRUEGER, OTTEN,
BURNS, WILLIAMS, SNYDER, SANCHEZ, WARREN, DEASY, WEBSTER,
KIM, PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL, SIMS, DERMODY, FRANKEL, HOHENSTEIN,
ISAACSON, GOODMAN, DeLUCA, COMITTA, MULLINS, SAPPEY,
FITZGERALD, HOWARD, ROZZI, INNAMORATO, SCHMITT, SHUSTERMAN
AND FIEDLER, AUGUST 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, AUGUST 13, 2020

AN ACT

1 Establishing the COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering
2 Business Grant Program and the COVID-19 Community Restaurant
3 and Catering Business Grant Fund to provide grants to
4 restaurant businesses impacted by COVID-19.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the COVID-19
9 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant Program Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "CARES Act." The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
15 Security Act (Public Law 116-136, 134 Stat. 281).

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

3 "Fund." The COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering
4 Business Grant Fund established under section 4.

5 "Proclamation of disaster emergency." The proclamation of
6 disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020,
7 published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of
8 the state of disaster emergency.

9 "Program." The COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering
10 Business Grant Program established under section 3(a).

11 "Restaurant business." A nonfranchise employer in this
12 Commonwealth that satisfies all of the following criteria:

13 (1) The employer has a 72251, 72241, 722320 or 722330
14 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)
15 designation from the United States Census Bureau.

16 (2) The employer's gross annual receipts for the prior
17 fiscal year did not exceed \$5,000,000.

18 Section 3. Establishment of program.

19 (a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Community Restaurant and
20 Catering Business Grant Program is established within the
21 department.

22 (b) Duties of department.--The department shall provide
23 grants under the program in accordance with this act to
24 restaurant businesses that are adversely affected financially
25 due to the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, identified in
26 the proclamation of disaster emergency.

27 Section 4. Establishment of fund.

28 The COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant
29 Fund is established as a special fund in the State Treasury.
30 Money appropriated under section 11 shall be deposited into the

1 fund to be used exclusively by the department to award grants to
2 restaurant businesses under the program.

3 Section 5. Grant application forms.

4 (a) Development.--The department shall develop a grant
5 application form for restaurant businesses to apply for a grant
6 under the program. At a minimum, the grant application form
7 shall contain the following information:

8 (1) The name, address and contact information of the
9 restaurant business.

10 (2) The amount of grant money requested under the
11 program.

12 (3) The proposed use for the grant money requested under
13 the program.

14 (4) The financial impact on the restaurant business
15 due to the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, identified
16 in the proclamation of disaster emergency.

17 (5) Any other information that the department deems
18 necessary and appropriate.

19 (b) Submission.--A restaurant business must submit the grant
20 application form under subsection (a) to the department in a
21 manner prescribed to be eligible for a grant under the program.

22 Section 6. Award of grants.

23 (a) Review.--No later 20 days after receipt of the grant
24 application form under section 5(a), the department shall review
25 the grant application form, determine whether to award a grant
26 to the restaurant business under the program and determine the
27 amount of the grant money to be awarded to the restaurant
28 business if applicable.

29 (b) Considerations.--In determining the amount of the grant
30 money to be awarded to the restaurant business, the following

1 shall apply:

2 (1) The department shall consider all of the following:

3 (i) The geographic and demographic diversity of the
4 restaurant business.

5 (ii) How the restaurant business and the surrounding
6 community of the restaurant business would be served
7 through the award of the grant money to the business.

8 (2) The department may require documentation and
9 information regarding the gross annual receipts and employees
10 of the restaurant business.

11 (c) Notice.--After conducting a review and making a
12 determination on a grant application under subsection (a), the
13 department shall provide written notice to the restaurant
14 business of the award or denial of a grant under the program.
15 Notice of the award of a grant under the program shall include
16 the amount of the grant money awarded and any conditions or
17 restrictions on the use of the grant money. Notice of the denial
18 of all or part of the grant money requested under the program in
19 the grant application shall include the reasons for the full or
20 partial denial.

21 Section 7. Public notice.

22 The department shall provide information regarding the
23 availability and award of grants under the program on the
24 department's publicly accessible Internet website.

25 Section 8. Limitation on award of grants.

26 Subject to the availability of funding, a grant to a
27 restaurant business under the program shall not exceed \$20,000.

28 Section 9. Reports.

29 (a) Preparation.--No later than 60 days after the notice is
30 published under section 12(a), the department shall prepare a

1 report that lists each restaurant business that received grant
2 money under the program and a summary of the information
3 specified in each grant application under section 5(a).

4 (b) Publication.--The department shall post the report under
5 subsection (a) on the department's publicly accessible Internet
6 website.

7 Section 10. Guidelines.

8 The department may promulgate guidelines for the
9 implementation and administration of this act.

10 Section 11. Appropriation.

11 In addition to any other money made available to the
12 Commonwealth for COVID-19 relief, the sum of \$100,000,000 of the
13 money available to the Commonwealth under the CARES Act is
14 appropriated to the department for the purpose of awarding
15 grants under the program.

16 Section 12. Expiration.

17 The authority of the department to award grants under the
18 program shall expire 30 days after the termination or expiration
19 of the proclamation of disaster emergency.

20 Section 13. Effective date.

21 This act shall take effect in 30 days.