
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2411 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY A. DAVIS, MERSKI, HILL-EVANS, WEBSTER, ZABEL,
HANBIDGE, SCHLOSSBERG, HOHENSTEIN, BURGOS, KOSIEROWSKI,
SANCHEZ, RAVENSTAHL, YOUNGBLOOD, HARRIS, FREEMAN, CIRESI,
BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE, DELLOSO, BRIGGS, McCLINTON, CEPHAS,
GALLOWAY, WILLIAMS, DERMODY, DONATUCCI, O'MARA, GREEN,
READSHAW, ROZZI, SCHWEYER AND HOWARD, APRIL 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, APRIL 14, 2020

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Child Care Grant Program for Front Line Medical
2 Facility Personnel; providing for duties of the Department of
3 Community and Economic Development; establishing the Child
4 Care Grant Program for Front Line Medical Facility Personnel
5 Fund; and making an appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Child Care
10 Grant Program for Front Line Medical Facility Personnel Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

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

15 "Applicant." An individual who applies for a grant in
16 accordance with this act.

17 "Child." The term includes a stepchild.

1 "Child care expenses." Child care expenses incurred by a
2 health care practitioner or custodial worker employed at a
3 medical facility during the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

4 "COVID-19 disaster emergency." The disaster emergency
5 declared in the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the
6 Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21,
7 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

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

10 "Eligible child." A child who is:

11 (1) under 13 years of age; or

12 (2) between 13 years of age and 19 years of age and has
13 a disability, developmental delay, injury or impairment.

14 "Fund." The Child Care Grant Program for Front Line Medical
15 Facility Personnel Fund established in section 5.

16 "Grant." A grant for reimbursement of child care expenses
17 under the program.

18 "Health care practitioner." An individual who is authorized
19 to practice some component of the healing arts by a license,
20 permit, certificate or registration issued by a Commonwealth
21 licensing agency or board.

22 "Household income." All money or property received by a
23 household of whatever nature and from whatever source derived.

24 The term does not include the following:

25 (1) Periodic payments for sickness and disability other
26 than regular wages received during a period of sickness or
27 disability.

28 (2) Disability, retirement or other payments arising
29 under workers' compensation acts, occupational disease acts
30 and similar legislation by any government.

1 (3) Payments commonly recognized as old-age or
2 retirement benefits paid to persons retired from service
3 after reaching a specific age or after a stated period of
4 employment.

5 (4) Payments commonly known as public assistance or
6 unemployment compensation payments by a governmental agency.

7 (5) Payments to reimburse actual expenses.

8 (6) Payments made by employers or labor unions for
9 programs covering hospitalization, sickness, disability or
10 death, supplemental unemployment benefits, strike benefits,
11 Social Security and retirement.

12 (7) Compensation received by members of the armed forces
13 of the United States serving in a combat zone.

14 "Medical facility." Any public or private hospital, clinic,
15 center, medical school, medical training institution, health
16 care facility, physician's office, infirmary, dispensary,
17 ambulatory surgical treatment center or other institution or
18 location wherein medical care is provided to any person.

19 "Program." The Child Care Grant Program for Front Line
20 Medical Facility Personnel established in section 3.
21 Section 3. Program.

22 (a) Establishment.--The Child Care Grant Program for Front
23 Line Medical Facility Personnel is established. The program
24 shall be administered by the department to provide grants to
25 reimburse health care practitioners and custodial workers
26 employed at medical facilities for child care expenses incurred
27 during the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

28 (b) Eligibility.--The following apply:

29 (1) The department may award a grant to an individual
30 who incurs child care expenses for an eligible child if the

1 individual has household income no greater than \$75,000 and
2 is one of the following:

3 (i) a health care practitioner at a medical
4 facility; or

5 (ii) a custodial worker at a medical facility.

6 (2) A household income amount of \$150,000 shall apply in
7 determining eligibility under this subsection if more than
8 one individual in the household:

9 (i) incurs child care expenses for the same child;
10 and

11 (ii) meets the qualifications under paragraph (1)(i)
12 or (ii).

13 Section 4. Application.

14 (a) Submission.--An individual may submit an application to
15 the department requesting a grant. The application shall be on
16 the form required by the department and shall include or
17 demonstrate all of the following:

18 (1) The name and address of the applicant.

19 (2) A statement that the applicant is an eligible
20 recipient under the program.

21 (3) A statement of the amount of grant sought.

22 (4) Verification of child care expenses incurred
23 following the COVID-19 disaster emergency declaration.

24 (4) Reasonable proof of household income.

25 (5) Verification of the employment status of the
26 applicant, including job title and place of employment, as
27 prescribed by the department.

28 (6) Any other information required by the department.

29 (b) Review.--The department shall review the application to
30 determine whether the applicant is eligible to receive a grant.

1 (c) Approval.--The following shall apply:

2 (1) Upon being satisfied that all requirements have been
3 met, the department may approve the application and award to
4 an applicant a grant in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for
5 each eligible child for which the applicant has incurred
6 child care expenses.

7 (2) The department may impose any other terms and
8 conditions on the grants authorized under this act as the
9 department determines is in the best interest of the
10 Commonwealth.

11 Section 5. Fund.

12 The Child Care Grant Program for Front Line Medical Facility
13 Personnel Fund is established in the State Treasury as a special
14 fund. The money in the fund shall be used by the department to
15 carry out the provisions of this act.

16 Section 6. Limitations.

17 The following apply:

18 (1) In no case shall the aggregate amount of grants paid
19 under this act exceed the appropriation to the fund for the
20 program.

21 (2) In the event that the money in the fund is
22 insufficient to provide grants to all grant recipients,
23 grants shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

24 (3) A grant awarded under this act shall in no way
25 constitute an entitlement derived from the Commonwealth or a
26 claim on any other funds of the Commonwealth.

27 Section 7. Guidelines.

28 The department shall develop written guidelines for the
29 program.

30 Section 8. Appropriation.

1 The sum of \$5,000,000, or as much thereof as may be
2 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Child Care Grant
3 Program for Front Line Medical Facility Personnel Fund to be
4 used exclusively for the purposes of this act.

5 Section 9. Applicability.

6 This act shall apply to child care expenses incurred
7 beginning March 6, 2020, until the COVID-19 disaster emergency
8 declaration is terminated or expires under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c)
9 (relating to general authority of Governor) or December 31,
10 2020, whichever first occurs.

11 Section 10. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect immediately.