

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1254 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY J. WARD, PHILLIPS-HILL, BROOKS, PITTMAN,
HUTCHINSON, YAW, L. WILLIAMS, STEFANO, COLLETT, IOVINO AND
BREWSTER, AUGUST 18, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
AUGUST 18, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), entitled
2 "An act relating to the finances of the State government;
3 providing for cancer control, prevention and research, for
4 ambulatory surgical center data collection, for the Joint
5 Underwriting Association, for entertainment business
6 financial management firms, for private dam financial
7 assurance and for reinstatement of item vetoes; providing for
8 the settlement, assessment, collection, and lien of taxes,
9 bonus, and all other accounts due the Commonwealth, the
10 collection and recovery of fees and other money or property
11 due or belonging to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
12 including escheated property and the proceeds of its sale,
13 the custody and disbursement or other disposition of funds
14 and securities belonging to or in the possession of the
15 Commonwealth, and the settlement of claims against the
16 Commonwealth, the resettlement of accounts and appeals to the
17 courts, refunds of moneys erroneously paid to the
18 Commonwealth, auditing the accounts of the Commonwealth and
19 all agencies thereof, of all public officers collecting
20 moneys payable to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
21 and all receipts of appropriations from the Commonwealth,
22 authorizing the Commonwealth to issue tax anticipation notes
23 to defray current expenses, implementing the provisions of
24 section 7(a) of Article VIII of the Constitution of
25 Pennsylvania authorizing and restricting the incurring of
26 certain debt and imposing penalties; affecting every
27 department, board, commission, and officer of the State
28 government, every political subdivision of the State, and
29 certain officers of such subdivisions, every person,
30 association, and corporation required to pay, assess, or
31 collect taxes, or to make returns or reports under the laws
32 imposing taxes for State purposes, or to pay license fees or

1 other moneys to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
2 every State depository and every debtor or creditor of the
3 Commonwealth," in emergency COVID-19 response, providing for
4 Nonprofit Economic Emergency Delivery System Grants Program.

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

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

9 Section 134-C. Nonprofit Economic Emergency Delivery System
10 Grants Program.

11 (a) Use of funds.--From money appropriated for the program,
12 \$200,000,000 shall be transferred to the authority and shall be
13 used to make grants under this subarticle.

14 (b) Establishment of program.--The authority shall establish
15 the program as a Statewide competitive grant program.

16 (c) Purpose of program.--The program shall receive
17 applications and award grants to eligible community-based
18 nonprofit organizations in accordance with this section.

19 (d) Application.--The authority shall develop an application
20 for eligible community-based nonprofit organizations to apply
21 for grants under this section within 30 days of the effective
22 date of this section. The application shall be made available
23 and posted on the authority's publicly accessible Internet
24 website and shall be in a form that can be completed
25 electronically or through the United States mail.

26 (e) Deadline.--No application for a grant under this section
27 may be submitted after September 30, 2020.

28 (f) Guidelines.--The authority shall establish guidelines
29 that are consistent with the provisions of this section within
30 30 days of the effective date of this section. The guidelines
31 shall be:

32 (1) Submitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau for

1 publication as a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

2 (2) Posted on the authority's publicly accessible
3 Internet website.

4 (g) Program requirements.--

5 (1) An eligible community-based nonprofit organization
6 must be one of the following categories:

7 (i) Child-care centers, early childhood learning
8 centers and after-out-of-school programs.

9 (ii) Community-based, federally qualified health
10 centers and rural health clinics.

11 (iii) Substance abuse treatment facilities.

12 (iv) Domestic violence centers.

13 (v) Organizations operating transportation and food
14 distribution systems.

15 (vi) Employment and workforce training and
16 educational centers.

17 (vii) Alternative learning and career training
18 institutions.

19 (viii) Organizations serving intellectual or
20 developmental disabilities.

21 (ix) Early intervention service providers.

22 (x) Mental health and substance abuse counseling.

23 (xi) Food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens.

24 (2) An eligible community-based nonprofit organization
25 must provide one or more of the following services:

26 (i) Child care.

27 (ii) Education and safety net services for
28 vulnerable youth, including child welfare, youth
29 development programs and crisis intervention.

30 (iii) Homelessness and housing insecurity assistance

1 services, including mortgage and rent relief, emergency
2 quarantine housing, transitional housing, rapid rehousing
3 and warming shelters.

4 (iv) Mental health treatment programs and substance
5 abuse counseling services.

6 (v) Facility and home-based or community-based
7 services for individuals with intellectual or
8 developmental disabilities.

9 (vi) Early intervention services.

10 (vii) Medical treatment for chronic conditions.

11 (viii) Procurement and distribution of personal
12 protective equipment and testing.

13 (ix) Employment readiness, including career
14 readiness, placement and retraining programs.

15 (x) Procurement, distribution or transportation of
16 food.

17 (3) An eligible community-based nonprofit organization
18 that has already received public funding during the COVID-19
19 pandemic must explain in its application why additional
20 funding is necessary above and beyond the public funding
21 already received.

22 (h) Grant limits.--The authority may award a grant to an
23 eligible community-based nonprofit organization not to exceed
24 \$500,000.

25 (i) Award of grants.--The authority shall award grants and
26 make grant payments under this section no later than November
27 30, 2020.

28 (j) Expiration.--This section shall expire after the money
29 transferred to the authority under subsection (a) has been
30 exhausted or December 1, 2020, whichever occurs first.

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

4 "Authority. " The Commonwealth Financing Authority.

5 "Eligible community-based nonprofit organization." A tax-
6 exempt 501(c)(3) institution that meets the criteria for grants
7 under subsection (g) and that was subject to financial strain
8 due to closure, increased service delivery or a loss of revenue
9 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the proclamation of
10 disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020,
11 published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of
12 the state of disaster emergency.

13 "Program." The Nonprofit Economic Emergency Delivery System
14 (NEEDS) Grants Program established under this section.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.