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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 836 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, BURGOS, CONKLIN, T. DAVIS, FRANKEL,  
FREEMAN, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, ISAACSON, KENYATTA, LEE,  
McCLINTON, McNEILL, N. NELSON, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, SIMS AND  
WEBSTER, MARCH 8, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,  
MARCH 8, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the LGBTQ Senior Community Grant Program;  
2 conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of  
3 Aging; and making an appropriation.

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

17 Section 1. Short title.

1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the LGBTQ Senior  
2 Community Grant Program Act.

3 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

4 (a) Purpose of program.--The purpose of the LGBTQ Senior  
5 Community Grant Program is to facilitate the social, emotional  
6 and physical well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and  
7 transgender seniors in this Commonwealth by the establishment  
8 of, and support for, community-based services, programs and  
9 activities that support LGBTQ seniors and the LGBTQ community.

10 (b) Use of grants.--By the establishment of the LGBTQ Senior  
11 Community Grant Program, the General Assembly intends that  
12 grants provided under this act be used to provide support to  
13 not-for-profit organizations, county governments and municipal  
14 governments for community-based services, programs and  
15 activities conducive to the achievement of these goals as well  
16 as other purposes.

17 Section 3. Definitions.

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

21 "Department." The Department of Aging of the Commonwealth.

22 "Program." The LGBTQ Senior Community Grant Program  
23 established under this act.

24 Section 4. Establishment.

25 There is established in the department a program to be known  
26 as the LGBTQ Senior Community Grant Program. The purpose of the  
27 program shall be to provide annual grants to eligible not-for-  
28 profit organizations, county governments and municipal  
29 governments for community-based services, programs and  
30 activities that support LGBTQ seniors and the LGBTQ community.

1 Section 5. Applications.

2 (a) Development and availability.--Grant application forms  
3 shall be developed by the department and be made available on  
4 the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

5 (b) Compliance.--The department shall verify in writing on  
6 each grant application that the application complies with all  
7 the requirements under section 6.

8 Section 6. Award of grants.

9 (a) General rule.--The department shall award grants to  
10 eligible not-for-profit organizations, county governments and  
11 municipal governments which have been approved by the  
12 department. Grants may be awarded for any of the following  
13 purposes:

14 (1) Health care services for LGBTQ seniors.

15 (2) Cultural competency training for health care  
16 providers, social service providers and other members of the  
17 community to include discussion of issues related to LGBTQ  
18 seniors.

19 (3) Social activities and outreach programs for LGBTQ  
20 seniors.

21 (4) Computer and job training for LGBTQ seniors.

22 (5) Any other related services that support LGBTQ  
23 seniors and the LGBTQ community or have a sizeable number of  
24 LGBTQ seniors as members.

25 (b) Amount.--Grant amounts may not exceed a maximum of  
26 \$50,000 for each not-for-profit organization, county government  
27 or municipal government approved under this act.

28 Section 7. Restriction.

29 The LGBTQ Senior Community Grant Program may not be used for  
30 the capital needs of a not-for-profit organization, county

1 government or municipal government.

2 Section 8. Powers and duties of department.

3 The powers and duties of the department shall be:

4 (1) To accept grants from the Federal Government and any  
5 other government or individual or agency for use in the  
6 program.

7 (2) To promulgate rules, regulations and directives the  
8 department deems necessary to carry out the provisions of  
9 this act.

10 Section 9. Funding.

11 (a) General rule.--Notwithstanding sections 301, 303 and 311  
12 of the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the  
13 State Lottery Law, funding for the program shall be an eligible  
14 use for money in the State Lottery Fund.

15 (b) Appropriation.--For fiscal year 2021-2022, and each  
16 fiscal year thereafter, the sum of \$2,500,000 shall be  
17 appropriated from the State Lottery Fund to the department for  
18 the LGBTQ Senior Community Grant Program.

19 Section 10. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect in 60 days.