
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1275 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, CRUZ, SANCHEZ, GALLOWAY, BOBACK,
McNEILL, GUENST, MERSKI, HILL-EVANS, LEE, CIRESI, DeLUCA,
ROZZI, HOWARD, INNAMORATO AND KINKEAD, APRIL 23, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 23, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,
4 establishing the Pennsylvania Preferred® Food Bucks Program.

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

7 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
8 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
9 read:

10 Section 405.1C. Pennsylvania Preferred® Food Bucks
11 Program.--(a) There is established in the department a program
12 which shall be known as the Pennsylvania Preferred® Food Bucks
13 Program. The program shall provide benefit incentives for SNAP
14 recipients who redeem SNAP benefits for the targeted food items
15 specified under subsection (c). The department may allocate
16 money available for the program to a Pennsylvania nonprofit
17 organization or entity that meets the criteria specified under
18 subsection (b) for the purpose of administering the program

1 throughout this Commonwealth.

2 (b) The department shall develop an application to receive a
3 grant to administer the program. In order to be eligible to
4 receive a grant to administer the program, an applicant shall
5 submit the application to the department and meet all of the
6 following criteria:

7 (1) The applicant shall be a Pennsylvania nonprofit
8 organization or entity.

9 (2) The applicant shall submit a plan to the department for
10 the preparation and development of the infrastructure necessary
11 to administer the program for the sale of the targeted food
12 items specified under subsection (c) at participating food
13 retailers, including farmers markets, farm stands, mobile
14 markets, community supported agriculture sites, corner stores,
15 rural grocery stores and supermarkets.

16 (3) The applicant shall conduct research and evaluate the
17 program in accordance with any requirements of the Federal or
18 State grants awarded for the program.

19 (4) The applicant shall evaluate the impact of the program
20 on purchases made by SNAP recipients and the benefit of the
21 purchases for farmers and businesses in this Commonwealth.

22 (5) The applicant shall commit to using no less than the
23 minimum percentage of funds required for benefit incentives to
24 qualify for a Federal large-scale project grant under the
25 Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 11-334, 132
26 Stat. 4490) through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive
27 Program.

28 (6) The applicant shall agree to provide a benefit incentive
29 of no less than forty cents (40¢) to a SNAP recipient for every
30 one dollar (\$1) of SNAP benefits redeemed by the SNAP recipient

1 for the targeted food items specified under subsection (c).

2 (7) The applicant shall agree to coordinate the marketing of
3 the program with the Pennsylvania Preferred® Program under 3
4 Pa.C.S. Ch. 46 Subch. B (relating to Pennsylvania Preferred®
5 Program).

6 (8) The applicant shall give preference to retailers and
7 markets who sell Pennsylvania-grown agricultural commodities or
8 agricultural commodities designated with the Pennsylvania
9 Preferred® Trademark as defined in 3 Pa.C.S. § 4602 (relating to
10 definitions).

11 (c) In order to be eligible for a benefit incentive under
12 the program, the targeted food items shall meet the criteria
13 specified in the definition of "food" in section 3(k) of the
14 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (Public Law 88-525, 7 U.S.C. §
15 2012(k)) and shall include fruits and vegetables, whether fresh,
16 canned, dried or frozen whole or cut without added sugars, fats,
17 oils or salt.

18 (d) The mechanism for delivering benefit incentives under
19 the program shall be determined by a grantee selected to
20 administer the program under subsection (b) in conjunction with
21 the department.

22 (e) The department, in conjunction with the Department of
23 Agriculture, may use all of the following for the administration
24 of the program:

25 (1) A Federal large-scale project grant under the
26 Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 through the Gus Schumacher
27 Nutrition Incentive Program.

28 (2) Money appropriated by the General Assembly for benefits
29 for the program.

30 (3) Any other money made available for the program.

1 (f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
2 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

3 "Program" means the Pennsylvania Preferred® Food Bucks
4 Program established under subsection (a).

5 "SNAP" means the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
6 Program.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.