
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1622 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, SCHLOSSBERG, McNEILL, BRADFORD, DELLOSO,
DRISCOLL, FREEMAN, GUZMAN, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, KENYATTA,
MADDEN, SAMUELSON AND SANCHEZ, JUNE 14, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 14, 2021

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
33 other moneys to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,

1 every State depository and every debtor or creditor of the
2 Commonwealth," in emergency COVID-19 response, establishing
3 the Community Health Outreach and Vaccination Support
4 Program; and making an appropriation.

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 135-C. Community Health Outreach and Vaccination
10 Support Program.

11 (a) Establishment.--The Community Health Outreach and
12 Vaccination Support Program is established within the department
13 to make grants under this section.

14 (b) Eligibility.--A nonprofit organization shall be eligible
15 to apply for a grant under the program if the nonprofit
16 organization:

17 (1) Has demonstrated experience and expertise in
18 implementing public health programs, particularly in
19 medically underserved areas and across broad geographic
20 areas.

21 (2) Has established relationships with the Department of
22 Health or State or local public health departments.

23 (3) Can demonstrate the ability to provide services to
24 areas and populations not being reached by current COVID-19
25 vaccination and response efforts.

26 (4) Can clearly describe the partnerships formed at the
27 regional and local level to directly assist individuals in
28 receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. The partnerships may
29 include organizations such as community-based organizations
30 and other health and social service organizations that can
31 directly hire community outreach workers from the vulnerable
32 and medically underserved communities that they will serve

1 and can reach out to communities or populations with low
2 COVID-19 vaccination rates.

3 (c) Use of money.--A grant under this section may only be
4 used for the purpose of outreach efforts with the purpose of
5 educating persons in the community of the benefits of the COVID-
6 19 vaccination, including:

7 (1) Local media buys for advertising and public service
8 announcements involving television, radio, newspapers,
9 magazines, blogs and websites.

10 (2) Community events.

11 (3) Mobilization efforts to educate and assist
12 individuals in accessing and receiving COVID-19 vaccinations,
13 including making COVID-19 vaccination appointments, providing
14 resources to find convenient COVID-19 vaccination locations
15 and assisting individuals with transportation.

16 (4) Administrative costs related to the outreach
17 efforts.

18 (d) Application.--

19 (1) The department shall develop grant application
20 forms.

21 (2) At a minimum, the forms shall contain the following
22 information:

23 (i) The name, address and contact information of the
24 applicant.

25 (ii) A description of the applicant and eligibility,
26 including any documentation of proof as required by the
27 department.

28 (iii) The amount of grant money requested.

29 (iv) The proposed use for the grant money requested.

30 (v) Any other information that the department deems

1 necessary and appropriate.

2 (3) The forms shall be posted on the publicly accessible
3 Internet website of the department.

4 (e) Limitation.--A nonprofit organization shall not receive
5 program grant money totaling more than \$50,000.

6 (f) Review and determination.--After review of the
7 information provided under each applicant's submitted
8 application form, the department shall determine whether to
9 award grant money to the applicant and, if so, the amount of the
10 grant money awarded. The award shall give special consideration
11 to a nonprofit organization that will serve communities or
12 populations with low COVID-19 vaccination rates.

13 (g) Appropriation.--In addition to any other money
14 appropriated to the department for grants under this section,
15 the sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated to the department from
16 money received by the Commonwealth under Title IX, Subtitle M,
17 section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law
18 117-2, 135 Stat. 4) and deposited into the COVID-19 Response
19 Restricted Account for the purpose of making grants under this
20 section.

21 (h) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
22 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
23 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

24 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the
25 proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on
26 March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and
27 any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

28 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
29 Development of the Commonwealth.

30 "Institution of higher education." As defined in section

1 118(c) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as
2 the Public School Code of 1949.

3 "Nonprofit organization." As follows:

4 (1) An entity that is:

5 (i) organized as a nonprofit corporation or
6 nonprofit unincorporated association under the laws of
7 the United States or this Commonwealth; or

8 (ii) authorized to do business in this Commonwealth
9 as a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit unincorporated
10 association under the laws of this Commonwealth.

11 (2) The term includes a religious institution, a faith-
12 based organization and an institution of higher education.

13 "Program." The Community Health Outreach and Vaccination
14 Support Program.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.