
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1728 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, HILL-EVANS, RYAN, COX, CIRESI, LEWIS
DELROSSO, STURLA AND R. MACKENZIE, JULY 20, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JULY 20, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant
2 Program and the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant
3 Program Fund; and imposing powers and duties on the
4 Department of Education.

5 TABLE OF CONTENTS

6 Chapter 1. Preliminary Provisions

7 Section 101. Short title.

8 Section 102. Definitions.

9 Chapter 3. Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program

10 Section 301. Establishment.

11 Section 302. Grants.

12 Section 303. Procedure for grant issuance.

13 Section 304. Limit on administrative costs.

14 Chapter 9. Reporting

15 Section 901. Annual report.

16 Section 902. Report contents.

17 Chapter 11. Miscellaneous Provisions

18 Section 1101. Effective date.

19 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1 hereby enacts as follows:

2 CHAPTER 1

3 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

4 Section 101. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Adult
6 Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program Act.

7 Section 102. Definitions.

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

11 "Adult education provider." An approved educational agency,
12 institution or organization making use of either professional or
13 voluntary personnel. The term includes:

14 (1) A school district.

15 (2) An intermediate unit.

16 (3) An area career and technical school.

17 (4) A community college.

18 (5) A literacy council.

19 (6) A local library.

20 (7) A community-based organization that is private, a
21 nonprofit organization and representative of communities or
22 significant parts of communities and provides adult or family
23 literacy education programs.

24 (8) An educational entity recognized by the Secretary of
25 Education for providing appropriate and effective adult basic
26 or family literacy education programs.

27 (9) An education entity recognized by the Secretary of
28 Education for providing appropriate and effective education
29 exclusively to adult populations.

30 "Department." The Department of Education of the

1 Commonwealth.

2 "Eligible program participant." An individual who has
3 attained 18 years of age and satisfies one of the following:

4 (1) is basic skills deficient;

5 (2) does not have a secondary school diploma or its
6 recognized equivalent and has not achieved an equivalent
7 level of education;

8 (3) is an English language learner; or

9 (4) requires additional training to reenter the
10 workforce after a job loss.

11 "Fund." The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant
12 Program Fund established by this act.

13 "Grant." A grant issued by the department under this act.

14 "High school equivalency credential." The Commonwealth
15 Secondary School Diploma available to residents of this
16 Commonwealth who do not possess a high school diploma and have
17 met the criteria specified in 22 Pa. Code § 4.72 (relating to
18 credentials other than the high school diploma).

19 "Program." The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant
20 Program established by this act.

21 CHAPTER 3

22 ADULT EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE RECOVERY

23 GRANT PROGRAM

24 Section 301. Establishment.

25 (a) General rule.--The Adult Education and Workforce
26 Recovery Grant Program is established in the department. The
27 program shall provide grants as provided in this act.

28 (b) Fund.--The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant
29 Program Fund is established in the State Treasury.

30 (c) Source of fund.--

1 (1) The sum of \$15,000,000 in Federal money paid to the
2 Commonwealth under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
3 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 4) shall be transferred to the
4 fund and, subject to payment of administrative costs as
5 provided in section 304, shall be allocated as follows:

6 (i) Eighty percent of the remaining money in the
7 fund shall be used to provide grants to the entities
8 described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7)
9 and (8) of the definition of "adult education provider"
10 in section 102.

11 (ii) Twenty percent of the remaining money in the
12 fund shall be used to provide grants to entities
13 described in paragraph (9) of the definition of "adult
14 education provider" in section 102 for programs that
15 serve adult learners who hold a secondary diploma or its
16 recognized equivalent and need additional training to
17 reenter the workforce.

18 (2) The department may reallocate between the grants
19 specified in paragraph (1)(i) and (ii) any unspent funds
20 resulting from insufficient applicants following the initial
21 grant application period.

22 (d) Administration.--The department shall make competitive
23 grants available to adult education providers for the following
24 purposes:

25 (1) Upskilling working-age adults for the post-COVID
26 workforce.

27 (2) Providing support to adult learners in completing a
28 high school equivalency credential.

29 (3) Providing technical training or job training
30 necessary to secure employment to participants coenrolled in

1 adult basic education or transitioning directly from adult
2 basic education.

3 (4) Providing tuition assistance for grant participants
4 coenrolled in adult basic education or transitioning directly
5 from adult basic education.

6 (5) Providing digital literacy training.

7 (6) Providing career services, including career
8 exploration, planning and support identifying and evaluating
9 education and job training programs.

10 Section 302. Grants.

11 (a) Eligibility.--An adult education provider shall be
12 eligible to apply for a grant under the program.

13 (b) Guidelines.--The department shall develop guidelines
14 that specify the requirements for grants. The guidelines shall
15 include:

16 (1) The grant application process.

17 (2) Allowed and disallowed expenses.

18 (3) The method by which grantees will be evaluated on
19 performance to include outcome-based metrics.

20 (c) Awards.--

21 (1) The department may not award a grant in excess of
22 \$500,000 to a qualified applicant.

23 (2) The department may award a grant for a multipartner
24 collaboration, in which case the dollar limit in paragraph
25 (1) shall not apply.

26 Section 303. Procedure for grant issuance.

27 (a) Application.--An eligible adult education provider may
28 submit an application to the department requesting a grant.

29 (b) Application requirements.--A completed application must
30 describe the proposed grant activities in the form and manner

1 prescribed by the department. An application must include all of
2 the following:

3 (1) A description of the programming and services the
4 adult education provider will offer in support of one or more
5 of the purposes outlined in section 301(d).

6 (2) A description of the manner in which the adult
7 education provider will meet the guidelines under section
8 302(b).

9 (3) A projection of costs associated with the proposed
10 grant activities, including an enumeration of opportunities
11 to leverage other funding and programming resources.

12 (4) Information on occupations that will be the focus of
13 the program, including data on local demand.

14 (5) A description of strategies to recruit eligible
15 program participants.

16 (6) Information on industry-recognized credentials or
17 certifications awarded to program participants upon
18 completion of an education or job training.

19 (7) A start date for the proposed grant activities.

20 (8) A list of clear objectives and measurable goals that
21 the adult education provider will seek to achieve.

22 (c) Approval process.--The department shall review and
23 approve grant applications that, in the sole discretion of the
24 department, satisfy the requirements of this act.

25 (d) Contractual relationship.--Within 30 days of the
26 completion of the approval process, the department shall enter
27 into a contract with each adult education provider approved for
28 a grant. The contract shall require the signatories to provide
29 the services described in the approved application from money
30 appropriated or distributed for this purpose.

1 Section 304. Limit on administrative costs.

2 No more than 5% of the money in the fund may be used by the
3 department for administrative costs.

4 CHAPTER 9

5 REPORTING

6 Section 901. Annual report.

7 Not later than September 1 of each year, the department shall
8 submit a report regarding the implementation and outcomes of
9 grants over the previous fiscal year to the following:

10 (1) The Governor.

11 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
12 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

13 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
14 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

15 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
16 Education Committee of the Senate.

17 (5) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
18 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

19 Section 902. Report contents.

20 In addition to information or analysis required by the
21 department, the annual report shall include information about
22 each grant awarded, including whether:

23 (1) The grant achieved the clear objectives and
24 measurable goals proposed under section 303(b) (8).

25 (2) The number of eligible program participants.

26 (3) The amount expended.

27 CHAPTER 11

28 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

29 Section 1101. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect immediately.