
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 960 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, MADDEN, GUENST, DELLOSO, HILL-EVANS,
BURGOS, SANCHEZ AND BELLMON, APRIL 24, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, APRIL 24, 2023

AN ACT

1 Requiring recipients of certain grants from the Commonwealth to
2 enter into a community benefits agreement as a condition of
3 the grant; and providing a penalty.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Commonwealth
8 Grants Community Benefits Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative intent.

10 The intent of this act is to:

11 (1) Ensure that when a grant recipient receives
12 substantial financial support from a Commonwealth agency, the
13 grant recipient's project benefits the immediate and
14 surrounding areas.

15 (2) Provide direct employment, pathways to employment,
16 training or meaningful work experience for young people and
17 adult learners.

18 Section 3. Definitions.

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

4 "Apprenticeship." An apprenticeship program registered by
5 the Department of Labor and Industry.

6 "Commonwealth agency." The Commonwealth Financing Authority,
7 the Office of the Budget and any department of the Commonwealth
8 that provides redevelopment assistance for a capital project
9 authorized by law.

10 "Community benefits agreement." A memorandum of
11 understanding between a grant recipient and a Commonwealth
12 agency outlining in detail how a grant recipient will work to
13 provide pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, internships,
14 summer jobs, paid work experiences or other work experiences to
15 individuals in the immediate and surrounding areas of the grant
16 recipient's project.

17 "Grant." An award of at least \$500,000 by a Commonwealth
18 agency to an entity that applies for financial assistance from
19 the Commonwealth agency under a program authorized by law.

20 "Grant recipient." An entity that receives a grant.

21 "Internship." A temporary placement that is either paid or
22 unpaid, the purpose of which is to provide exposure and
23 experience in a specific field, job, career or trade.

24 "Paid work experience." A temporary job for which the
25 participant is compensated, the purpose of which is to provide
26 exposure to a specific job, career or trade.

27 "Pre-apprenticeship." Classes to learn an apprenticeable
28 occupation in a program registered by the director of the
29 Apprenticeship and Training Office of the Department of Labor
30 and Industry.

1 "Project." A capital project that receives redevelopment
2 assistance from a Commonwealth agency.

3 "Summer job." A temporary job designed for secondary, career
4 and technical, vocational or postsecondary students.

5 Section 4. Community benefits agreement.

6 (a) General rule.--A Commonwealth agency that intends to
7 award a grant shall, before executing a contract with the grant
8 recipient, require the recipient to enter into a community
9 benefits agreement.

10 (b) Regulations.--The Commonwealth agency, in consultation
11 with the Department of Labor and Industry, shall promulgate
12 regulations defining the specific terms of community benefits
13 agreements.

14 (c) Complete agreement required.--A grant contract may not
15 be executed unless a community benefits agreement has been
16 received and deemed complete by the appropriate Commonwealth
17 agency.

18 Section 5. Verification and release of money.

19 (a) Procedure.--A Commonwealth agency that awards a grant
20 shall establish and administer a procedure to verify whether a
21 grant recipient is in compliance with the provisions of this
22 act.

23 (b) Release of grant money.--Grant money may not be released
24 to a grant recipient until the Commonwealth agency has
25 determined that the grant recipient has met the terms of the
26 community benefits agreement.

27 Section 6. Reports.

28 A Commonwealth agency shall annually submit a report to the
29 General Assembly on the outcomes of the community benefits
30 agreements entered into with grant recipients, including:

1 (1) The location of each project.

2 (2) The amount of grant money awarded by the
3 Commonwealth agency.

4 (3) The number of successfully completed community
5 benefits agreements.

6 (4) The number of uncompleted community benefits
7 agreements.

8 (5) The total number of pre-apprenticeships,
9 apprenticeships, internships, summer jobs, paid work
10 experiences or other work experiences provided from community
11 benefits agreements.

12 Section 7. Penalty.

13 A Commonwealth agency may impose a penalty which may include
14 repayment of all or a portion of the grant amount in a manner
15 prescribed by the Commonwealth agency.

16 Section 8. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect in 60 days.