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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1525 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, MADSEN, KINSEY, RABB, SANCHEZ,  
BELLMON, GUENST, KHAN, PARKER, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, STURLA AND  
D. WILLIAMS, JUNE 27, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JUNE 27, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Providing for grants to organizations that host or offer  
2 education, workforce training or skills development to young  
3 adults; establishing the Building a Better Future Grant  
4 Program; imposing duties on the Department of Labor and  
5 Industry; and making an appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Building a  
10 Better Future Grant Program Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

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

15 "Department." The Department of Labor and Industry of the  
16 Commonwealth.

17 "Program." The Building a Better Future Grant Program  
18 established under section 3.

19 "WIOA." The provisions of 29 U.S.C. Ch. 32 (relating to

1 workforce innovation and opportunity).

2 Section 3. Program.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Building a Better Future Grant  
4 Program is established within the department.

5 (b) Purpose.--The program shall provide grants to  
6 organizations that host or offer comprehensive education,  
7 workforce training and skills development to individuals 16 to  
8 24 years of age who have been disconnected from other  
9 educational opportunities. An organization shall be located in  
10 this Commonwealth and focused on construction and building  
11 trades, but may include workforce development offerings in  
12 health care, customer service, child care and other vocational  
13 training and certifications that are relevant to local labor  
14 market opportunities.

15 Section 4. Eligibility.

16 (a) Participant requirements.--To be eligible for the  
17 program, an organization must enroll individuals 16 to 24 years  
18 of age who can provide self-attestation that the individual is a  
19 member of a low-income family and meets at least two of the  
20 following:

21 (1) has previously been convicted or adjudicated  
22 delinquent;

23 (2) is the child of an incarcerated parent, a parent who  
24 has been released from a term of incarceration on parole or  
25 who is serving a sentence on probation;

26 (3) has been placed in foster care;

27 (4) has a disability;

28 (5) is the child of migrant laborers;

29 (6) has dropped out of school before graduation or has  
30 dropped out and subsequently reenrolled;

- 1 (7) is experiencing homelessness;
- 2 (8) has foundational skills needs or is basic-skills  
3 deficient;
- 4 (9) is pregnant or parenting;
- 5 (10) is part of another young-adult population,  
6 including a racial group, that is experiencing disparate  
7 levels of youth disconnection as defined by the local  
8 workforce development board; or
- 9 (11) was approved for participation or enrollment in  
10 WIOA Youth Formula Services or Job Corps.

11 (b) Organization requirements.--In order to receive a grant  
12 award, an organization must provide to participants at least two  
13 or more of the following:

- 14 (1) work experience and skills training;
- 15 (2) occupational skills training;
- 16 (3) other paid and unpaid work experiences, including  
17 internships and job shadowing;
- 18 (4) services and activities necessary for participants  
19 to achieve a high school diploma or equivalency;
- 20 (5) counseling services and other wraparound services;
- 21 (6) activities designed to foster leadership  
22 development; or
- 23 (7) career services, including job search, placement and  
24 follow-up support.

25 Section 5. Grant award.

26 (a) Duties of department.--The department shall develop  
27 guidelines that specify requirements for grants. The guidelines  
28 shall include:

- 29 (1) The grant application process and timeline.
- 30 (2) Allowed and disallowed expenses.

1           (3) The method by which individuals who apply for grants  
2           are evaluated.

3           (b) Awards.--The department may not award a grant in excess  
4           of \$1,000,000 per organization. Up to 5% of money available for  
5           grants may be awarded to a Statewide nonprofit that serves  
6           multiple organizations that have been awarded funding under the  
7           program to provide technical assistance to those organizations.

8           Section 6. Reports.

9           An organization awarded a grant from the program shall  
10          provide program and fiscal reports as required by the  
11          department.

12          Section 7. Appropriation.

13          The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund  
14          to the department to provide grants for the program.

15          Section 8. Additional funding.

16          In addition to the appropriation provided under section 7,  
17          the department may:

18                 (1) Expend money from the restricted accounts  
19                 administered by the department for the program.

20                 (2) Accept grants, gifts, donations and other payments.

21                 (3) Expend money appropriated to the department for the  
22                 program after the effective date of this section.

23          Section 9. Effective date.

24          This act shall take effect immediately.