



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Committee Bill No. 5579**

LCO No. 4222



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HISPANIC AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR NONPROFIT GROWTH AND STABILIZATION FUND.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, (1) "eligible community-based organization" means an  
3 organization that (A) has tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of  
4 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding  
5 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to  
6 time, (B) is an incorporated nonprofit organization operating for not less  
7 than three consecutive years prior to July 1, 2025, (C) is based in the state  
8 and is a direct provider of human services, (D) serves a population that  
9 is comprised of fifty-one per cent or more Hispanic persons or  
10 communities of color, (E) (i) is led by a chief executive officer who is  
11 Hispanic, African-American or Asian Pacific-American, and (ii) is  
12 governed by a board with a majority of members who are Hispanic,  
13 African-American or Asian Pacific-American, and (F) has an annual  
14 operating budget of at least one hundred fifty thousand dollars; (2)  
15 "communities of color" means communities comprised of persons  
16 whose racial or ethnic background is nonwhite Hispanic, African-

17 American or Asian Pacific-American; (3) "culturally competent" means  
18 the ability to effectively deliver services that meet the social, cultural,  
19 and linguistic needs of the recipient; and (4) "language accessible"  
20 means services delivered in the primary language of the recipient.

21 (b) There is established a fund to be known as the "Hispanic and  
22 Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization and Growth Fund". The  
23 fund, within available appropriations, shall contain (1) moneys from the  
24 General Fund traditionally appropriated to the Department of Social  
25 Services for human resources development contracts serving Hispanic  
26 persons and communities of color, and (2) any moneys required by law  
27 to be deposited into the fund. The fund shall be used to build the  
28 capacity of eligible community-based organizations to provide services  
29 by helping such organizations improve operational efficiencies through  
30 performance-based metrics and the adoption of strategies for long-term  
31 fiscal sustainability. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any  
32 fiscal year shall be carried forward in the fund for the fiscal year next  
33 succeeding. The fund may be used to make grants-in-aid authorized  
34 under subsections (e) and (f) of this section and for expenses related to  
35 the administration of the fund authorized under subsections (c) and (d)  
36 of this section.

37 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services may contract with a  
38 nonprofit organization to administer the fund, provided such  
39 organization has (1) not less than fifteen years of experience  
40 coordinating advocacy, service and outreach efforts for Hispanic  
41 charitable organizations that support Hispanic persons, and (2) a  
42 proven track record of establishing networks with non-Hispanic  
43 organizations that provide services to communities of color. The  
44 commissioner may give preference to an organization with experience  
45 successfully administering a similar fund.

46 (d) In contracting with a nonprofit organization to administer the  
47 fund, the commissioner shall require such organization to: (1) Establish  
48 a competitive procurement process through annual requests for

49 proposals to eligible community-based organizations, (2) establish a  
50 results-based contract evaluation system that includes goals that eligible  
51 community-based organizations shall meet in order to be considered for  
52 contract renewal, and (3) meet goals established by the commissioner  
53 for successful administration of the fund, including, but not limited to,  
54 annual reporting to the commissioner on fund expenditures and  
55 complying with limitations set by the commissioner on administrative  
56 expenses. Requests for proposals issued by the nonprofit organization  
57 administering the fund shall state that preference shall be given to  
58 eligible community-based organizations that (A) satisfy both conditions  
59 described in subparagraph (E) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this  
60 section and have annual budgets not exceeding one million dollars, and  
61 (B) offer culturally competent, language accessible services.

62 (e) The fund shall be used to provide grants to eligible community-  
63 based organizations to support capacity building, training and technical  
64 assistance opportunities in the following areas: (1) Financial  
65 management, including, but not limited to, financial planning, budget  
66 development, fiscal monitoring and cash flow analysis, (2) board  
67 development, including, but not limited to, establishing board  
68 committees and a fund-raising board and conducting professional  
69 board meetings, (3) fund development, including, but not limited to, gift  
70 solicitation and event planning, (4) nonprofit management and  
71 leadership training, (5) information technology, (6) collaborations and  
72 merger planning, and (7) results-oriented outcome training, including  
73 development of progress metrics and performance-tracking tools.

74 (f) An allocation panel of at least seven members, including, but not  
75 limited to, representatives from the Department of Social Services, the  
76 nonprofit organization chosen by the commissioner to administer the  
77 fund and at least two members of the communities to be served by the  
78 grant proposal, shall determine which community-based organizations  
79 are eligible for a grant. The executive director of the Commission on  
80 Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity may name a  
81 representative from the commission to the allocation panel. The

82 nonprofit organization chosen to administer the fund shall forward  
83 information on community-based organizations that are eligible for a  
84 grant to the Commissioner of Social Services, who shall have final  
85 approval over the awarding of a grant contract to an eligible  
86 community-based organization. Eligible community-based  
87 organizations awarded grants from the fund shall, within the grant  
88 period, (1) submit progress reports as required to the commissioner, (2)  
89 assign a person in a position of leadership at the community-based  
90 organization and at least two staff members to annually attend three  
91 seminars on organizational topics presented by the nonprofit  
92 organization administering the fund, and (3) agree to site visits as  
93 scheduled by the organization administering the fund.

94 (g) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social  
95 Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of  
96 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of  
97 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
98 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services on  
99 (1) the number of community-based organizations awarded grant  
100 contracts under the fund, (2) whether and how the fund has improved  
101 the capacity of community-based organizations to meet needs, (3) the  
102 performance of the nonprofit organization administering the fund, and  
103 (4) a recommendation on whether the fund should continue and any  
104 appropriations that may be necessary for the fund.

105 (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed as infringing upon any  
106 contract in effect on July 1, 2025, between the Department of Social  
107 Services and a community-based organization providing services to  
108 Hispanic persons and communities of color.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To improve services for Hispanic persons and communities of color.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. CANDELARIA J., 95th Dist.

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