
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1186 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY SIEGEL, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, T. DAVIS,
WARREN, SCHLOSSBERG, PARKER, CERRATO, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ AND
KHAN, MAY 18, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MAY 18, 2023

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Innovation Hub Grant Program and the Innovation
2 Hub Account to award grants to eligible entities for the
3 creation of innovation hubs; and making an appropriation.

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 Innovation
8 Hub Grant Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Account." The Innovation Hub Account established under
14 section 4(a).

15 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
16 Development of the Commonwealth.

17 "Eligible entity." Any of the following:

18 (1) A business or industry association.

- 1 (2) A municipal government.
- 2 (3) A nonprofit organization.
- 3 (4) An educational institution.
- 4 (5) A partnership of the entities specified under
- 5 paragraph (1), (2), (3) or (4).

6 "Historically disadvantaged community." A community that has
7 historically suffered from discrimination and has not had equal
8 access to public or private economic benefits due to the race,
9 ethnicity, gender, geography, language preference, immigrant or
10 citizen status, sexual orientation, gender identity,
11 socioeconomic status or disability status of the community's
12 members.

13 "Program." The Innovation Hub Grant Program established
14 under section 3(a).

15 Section 3. Innovation Hub Grant Program.

16 (a) Establishment.--The Innovation Hub Grant Program is
17 established within the department. The program shall provide
18 grants to eligible entities for innovation hubs in this
19 Commonwealth for the purpose of creating communal spaces where
20 entrepreneurs, academics, researchers, business leaders and
21 other stakeholders can convene and collaborate to create, expand
22 and maintain technology, business applications and other
23 entrepreneurial pursuits.

24 (b) Administration.--The department shall administer the
25 program and award grants to eligible entities under the program.
26 In administering the program, the department shall have the
27 following duties:

28 (1) Encourage and support the creation of innovation
29 hubs in this Commonwealth.

30 (2) Support the collaboration, research and development

1 of businesses and entrepreneurs in this Commonwealth through
2 innovation hubs.

3 (3) Provide technical assistance for innovation hubs.

4 (4) Supervise the equitable distribution of resources
5 for historically disadvantaged communities in innovation
6 hubs.

7 (5) Establish guidelines for the program.

8 (c) Notice.--The department shall provide information
9 regarding the availability and award of grants under the program
10 on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

11 (d) Guidelines.--The department shall promulgate guidelines
12 for the implementation of the program.

13 Section 4. Innovation Hub Account.

14 (a) Establishment.--The Innovation Hub Account is
15 established within the General Fund. The department shall use
16 the money in the account to award grants under the program to
17 eligible entities.

18 (b) Appropriation.--Money in the account is appropriated to
19 the department on a continuing basis to award grants under the
20 program to eligible entities. Money in the account shall not
21 lapse.

22 (c) Transfer.--The sum of \$50,000,000 shall be transferred
23 from the General Fund to the account.

24 Section 5. Award of grants.

25 (a) Use.--An eligible entity may use a grant awarded under
26 the program for any of the following:

27 (1) The creation of an innovation hub.

28 (2) The revitalization or repurposing of abandoned or
29 underused commercial property in this Commonwealth to
30 redevelop the commercial property into innovation hub

1 workspaces for businesses and industries.

2 (3) Communication infrastructure and technology relating
3 to an innovation hub.

4 (b) Regions.--For the purpose of distributing grants under
5 the program, the department shall organize the counties of this
6 Commonwealth into 10 regions based on geographic density,
7 employment, need for industry innovation and connection to
8 institutions of higher education. The department shall organize
9 the regions in a manner that is as compact as possible. The
10 department shall ensure that each county within a region shares
11 a border with at least one other regional partner county. The
12 department shall also ensure that no county is split between
13 multiple regions. Each region shall be eligible for one grant
14 under the program.

15 (c) Grant amount.--Each grant under the program may not
16 exceed \$5,000,000.

17 Section 6. Innovation hub requirements.

18 An innovation hub funded by a grant awarded under the program
19 shall reserve no less than the following:

20 (1) Ten percent of the workspace within the innovation
21 hub for entrepreneurs from a historically disadvantaged
22 community.

23 (2) Ten percent of all internships offered in an
24 innovation hub to members of a historically disadvantaged
25 community.

26 Section 7. Application process.

27 (a) Eligibility.--Only an eligible entity may apply for a
28 grant under the program.

29 (b) Submission.--In order to receive a grant under the
30 program, an eligible entity shall submit an application for the

1 grant in a form and manner specified by the department, which
2 shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

3 (1) The name and contact information of the applicant.

4 (2) The address of the proposed innovation hub and the
5 proposed innovation hub's current use, if applicable.

6 (3) A description of proposed renovations relating to
7 the proposed innovation hub.

8 (4) The impact of the proposed innovation hub on the
9 surrounding community.

10 (5) The amount of grant money requested.

11 (6) The proposed use for the grant money requested.

12 (7) A description of the proposed innovation hub and
13 what industries and businesses the proposed innovation hub
14 will specialize in.

15 (8) A description of how the proposed innovation hub
16 will benefit members of historically disadvantaged
17 communities in accordance with this act.

18 (9) A demonstration on how the applicant can partner
19 with industries in the region and collaborate with a variety
20 of stakeholders and entrepreneurs.

21 (10) Any other information that the department deems
22 necessary.

23 Section 8. Reports.

24 No later than January 1, 2025, and each January thereafter,
25 the department shall prepare a report detailing the creation of
26 innovation hubs in this Commonwealth and the grants awarded
27 under the program. The department shall post the report on the
28 department's publicly accessible Internet website.

29 Section 9. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 60 days.