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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1650 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY GREGORY, HOHENSTEIN, BERNSTINE, DIAMOND, ECKER,  
FLICK, GALLAGHER, GUENST, HANBIDGE, HOWARD, KAUFFMAN, KAZEEM,  
KUZMA, E. NELSON, SANCHEZ AND WAXMAN, AUGUST 15, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, AUGUST 15, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for substance abuse  
3 treatment and recovery support and for powers and duties of  
4 the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs; and establishing  
5 the Lifetime Recovery from Substance Abuse Grant Program.

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

8 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
9 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 52C

11 SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SUPPORT

12 Subchapter

13 A. Preliminary Provisions

14 B. (Reserved)

15 C. Support for Lifetime Recovery from Substance Abuse Grant

16 Program

17 SUBCHAPTER A

18 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

19 Sec.

1 52C01. (Reserved).

2 52C02. Scope of chapter.

3 52C03. Definitions.

4 § 52C01. (Reserved).

5 § 52C02. Scope of chapter.

6 This chapter relates to substance abuse and misuse treatment  
7 and support services.

8 § 52C03. Definitions.

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

12 "Alcohol." The term includes "malt or brewed beverages" and  
13 "liquor" as defined in section 102 of the act of April 12, 1951  
14 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code.

15 "Applicant."

16 (1) Any of the following:

17 (i) A recovery support provider.

18 (ii) A person that provides support and technical  
19 assistance to a recovery support provider.

20 (2) The term does not include an individual or a for-  
21 profit entity.

22 "Controlled substance." As defined in section 2 of the act  
23 of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled  
24 Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

25 "Department." The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of  
26 the Commonwealth.

27 "Peer recovery specialist." An individual who has received  
28 certification from a certifying entity under section 52C44(a)(4)  
29 (relating to application and review) as having received training  
30 sufficient to provide peer recovery services.

1 "Program." The Lifetime Recovery from Substance Abuse Grant  
2 Program established under section 52C43 (relating to Lifetime  
3 Recovery from Substance Abuse Grant Program).

4 "Recipient." An applicant that receives a grant under this  
5 chapter.

6 "Recovery from substance abuse." The process of change  
7 through which an individual who had been engaging in substance  
8 abuse takes steps to improve the individual's health and  
9 wellness, leads a self-directed life and strives to reach the  
10 individual's own potential.

11 "Recovery support providers." Any of the following that  
12 provide recovery support services to individuals, families and  
13 communities in this Commonwealth:

14 (1) A nonprofit organization.

15 (2) A hospital or other health care provider.

16 (3) A municipality.

17 (4) A single county authority created under the act of  
18 April 14, 1972 (P.L.221, No.63), known as the Pennsylvania  
19 Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act.

20 (5) A recovery house licensed under Subarticle (b) of  
21 Article XXIII-A of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177,  
22 No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929.

23 "Recovery support services." Any of the following services  
24 relating to an individual in recovery from substance abuse:

25 (1) Providing a network of peer support provided by peer  
26 recovery specialists for an individual in recovery from  
27 substance abuse, including advocacy for individuals in  
28 recovery from substance abuse.

29 (2) Providing and supporting a network of family support  
30 or community support for families and communities of those in

1 recovery from substance abuse.

2 (3) Providing crisis intervention referrals for  
3 individuals in recovery from substance abuse.

4 (4) Assisting an individual in recovery from substance  
5 abuse in gaining stable living arrangements, including  
6 assisting the individual in identifying appropriate living  
7 arrangements and preparing necessary paperwork.

8 (5) Assisting an individual in recovery from substance  
9 abuse in obtaining gainful employment, including providing a  
10 skill evaluation and assisting the individual in identifying  
11 employment opportunities.

12 (6) Creating and maintaining the technical assistance  
13 needs of workplaces that provide support for employees in  
14 recovery from substance abuse.

15 (7) Providing mentoring service to an individual in  
16 recovery from substance abuse.

17 (8) Providing referrals, assistance or consultation for  
18 individuals in recovery from substance abuse in obtaining  
19 services under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and  
20 (7).

21 "Substance abuse." The abuse or misuse of a controlled  
22 substance or alcohol.

23 SUBCHAPTER B

24 (Reserved)

25 SUBCHAPTER C

26 SUPPORT FOR LIFETIME RECOVERY FROM

27 SUBSTANCE ABUSE GRANT PROGRAM

28 Sec.

29 52C41. (Reserved).

30 52C42. Scope of subchapter.

1 52C43. Lifetime Recovery from Substance Abuse Grant Program.

2 52C44. Application and review.

3 52C45. Costs.

4 52C46. Funding.

5 52C47. Performance evaluation.

6 52C48. Report.

7 § 52C41. (Reserved).

8 § 52C42. Scope of subchapter.

9 This subchapter relates to grants to support lifetime  
10 recovery from substance abuse and misuse.

11 § 52C43. Lifetime Recovery from Substance Abuse Grant Program.

12 (a) Establishment.--The Lifetime Recovery from Substance  
13 Abuse Grant Program is established within the department.

14 (b) Purpose of program.--The program shall provide grants to  
15 assist in the development, expansion or improvement of recovery  
16 support services delivery in this Commonwealth.

17 (c) Statewide and geographic balance.--The department shall  
18 award a portion of the amount available under this subchapter to  
19 applicants seeking grants on a Statewide basis and a portion of  
20 the amount to each of the geographic areas of this Commonwealth  
21 designated under section 52C44(a)(2) (relating to application  
22 and review).

23 § 52C44. Application and review.

24 (a) Guidelines.--No later than 45 days after the effective  
25 date of this section and no less than once per year thereafter,  
26 the department shall adopt guidelines, after consulting with a  
27 representative cross section of this Commonwealth's recovery  
28 support providers, including individuals in recovery from  
29 substance abuse or family members of individuals in recovery  
30 from substance abuse, for the administration of the grant

1 program under this subchapter, and shall make the guidelines  
2 available on the department's publicly accessible Internet  
3 website. The guidelines shall include the following:

4 (1) The dates of the first and last day during which the  
5 department will accept applications.

6 (2) A division of this Commonwealth into nine geographic  
7 areas. To the extent practicable, the geographic areas under  
8 this paragraph shall be comparable to geographic areas  
9 recognized by the department for similarly focused grants.

10 (3) The standards by which an application will be  
11 scored. The following apply:

12 (i) The standards adopted under this paragraph shall  
13 be designed to ensure that the grants awarded under this  
14 subchapter are used in the most effective manner across  
15 this Commonwealth.

16 (ii) The standards adopted under this paragraph  
17 shall provide priority to applicants that meet any of the  
18 following:

19 (A) Applicants that are independent, nonprofit  
20 organizations led and governed by representatives of  
21 local communities of individuals in recovery from  
22 substance abuse.

23 (B) Applicants proposing to serve areas or  
24 assist recovery support providers serving areas of  
25 this Commonwealth with a high incidence of substance  
26 abuse or that have demonstrated need for additional  
27 substance abuse recovery support services.

28 (4) Designation of nationally recognized certifying  
29 entities which provide certification as peer recovery  
30 specialists.

1           (5) Statistics to be used for determination of areas of  
2 this Commonwealth that have a high incidence of substance  
3 abuse.

4           (b) Application.--An application for a grant under this  
5 subchapter shall be made on a form and in the manner required by  
6 the department.

7           (c) Content of application.--An application for a grant  
8 under this subchapter shall include the following:

9           (1) The name of the applicant.

10           (2) Whether, if awarded a grant under this subchapter,  
11 the applicant would use the grant as follows:

12           (i) on a Statewide basis; or

13           (ii) within a geographic area of this Commonwealth.

14           (3) Subgrantees with which the applicant will contract  
15 to provide substance abuse recovery support services.

16           (4) Recovery support providers to which the applicant  
17 intends to provide support and technical assistance.

18           (5) Recovery support providers to which the applicant  
19 intends to subgrant amounts received from the grant.

20           (6) A proposed budget of what eligible costs will be  
21 paid for with a grant.

22           (d) Review of application.--Beginning after the last day  
23 that the department accepts applications, the department shall  
24 review the applications in accordance with this section and the  
25 guidelines adopted under subsection (a).

26           (e) Awarding of grants.--After review of the applications  
27 under subsection (d), the department shall award grants as  
28 follows:

29           (1) For applicants seeking a grant under subsection (c)

30           (2) (i), the department shall award grants to applicants whose

1 applications received the highest scores among applicants  
2 seeking a grant on a Statewide basis.

3 (2) For applicants seeking a grant under subsection (c)  
4 (2)(ii), the department shall award grants to applicants  
5 whose applications received the highest scores among  
6 applicants seeking a grant within each geographic area.

7 (f) Denial of applicant information.--An applicant that is  
8 not awarded a grant under subsection (e) shall be provided with  
9 information documenting the overall score the applicant  
10 received, the score received for each of the standards under  
11 subsection (a)(3) and the overall scores of all applicants in  
12 the denied applicant's category under subsection (c)(2).

13 § 52C45. Costs.

14 (a) Allowable costs.--An amount awarded as a grant under  
15 this subchapter may be used for the following costs:

16 (1) Costs associated with providing recovery support  
17 services to residents of this Commonwealth.

18 (2) Costs associated with assisting recovery support  
19 providers with developing, expanding or improving recovery  
20 support services, including providing training and  
21 development of the tools and facilities necessary to provide  
22 recovery support services.

23 (3) Costs incurred by the recipient under section 52C47  
24 (relating to performance evaluation).

25 (b) (Reserved).

26 § 52C46. Funding.

27 (a) Appropriation.--The General Assembly may appropriate  
28 money to the department for the program.

29 (b) Funding from Opioid Settlement Restricted Account.--

30 (1) Money appropriated to the department from the Opioid



1 Settlement Restricted Account for costs associated with  
2 opioid remediation may be used to make grants under this  
3 subchapter.

4 (2) The department shall ensure that amounts under  
5 paragraph (1) used for the program comply with restrictions  
6 on the use of the money in the Opioid Settlement Restricted  
7 Account.

8 § 52C47. Performance evaluation.

9 (a) Survey.--No less frequently than once per year, a  
10 recipient shall perform a survey of individuals who received  
11 recovery support services from the recipient during the time  
12 period in which a recipient received a grant under this  
13 subchapter.

14 (b) Contents of survey.--Results of the survey may not  
15 contain any personally identifiable information.

16 (c) Voluntary participation.--Participation in the survey  
17 under this section by an individual who received recovery  
18 support services shall be voluntary.

19 (d) Submission to department.--A recipient shall provide  
20 information received under subsection (a) to the department in  
21 the manner and form as requested by the department.

22 § 52C48. Report.

23 (a) Annual report.--No later than March 31, 2024, and each  
24 March 31 of each year thereafter, the department shall publish  
25 an annual report that includes the following:

26 (1) The name and address of each recipient.

27 (2) The amount awarded to each recipient for each fiscal  
28 year.

29 (3) The number of individuals who received recovery  
30 support services from each recipient under paragraph (2) in

1 each fiscal year in which the recipient received a grant  
2 under this subchapter.

3 (4) A review of results of the surveys conducted under  
4 section 52C47 (relating to performance evaluation), including  
5 the percentage of individuals receiving services from the  
6 recipient who remain in long-term recovery after six months,  
7 one year, two years, five years and more than 10 years.

8 (b) Prohibited content.--The report under this section may  
9 not contain any personally identifiable information of an  
10 individual who received recovery support from a recipient.

11 (c) Report recipients.--The report under this section shall  
12 be issued to the following:

13 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
14 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

15 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
16 Health and Human Services Committee of the Senate.

17 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
18 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

19 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
20 Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives.

21 (5) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
22 Health Committee of the House of Representatives.

23 (d) Public availability.--The report shall be made available  
24 to the public on the department's publicly accessible Internet  
25 website.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.