
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 193 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, DALEY, KENYATTA,
SCHLOSSBERG, D. WILLIAMS, GUENST, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN,
HOHENSTEIN, GALLOWAY, CIRESI, HOWARD, WEBSTER, SIMS,
MALAGARI, DEASY AND ROZZI, MAY 7, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 7, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing the COVID-19 Childcare for Essential Workers Grant
2 Program to provide grants to essential workers to be used for
3 childcare during the COVID-19 disaster emergency; imposing
4 duties on the Department of Community and Economic
5 Development; and providing for a transfer of Federal money.

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 COVID-19
10 Childcare for Essential Workers 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 "Childcare." Care in lieu of parental care for part of a 24-
16 hour day by an eligible provider, as described in 55 Pa. Code §
17 3041.13(a) (relating to parent choice), or a relative of the
18 child who provides the care for the child if the relative

1 complies with the applicable State requirements for providing
2 the care.

3 "COVID-19." The coronavirus disease 2019, an infectious
4 disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus
5 2 that was first identified during December 2019 in Wuhan,
6 China.

7 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
8 Development of the Commonwealth.

9 "Essential worker." An individual employed by or under
10 contract with a life-sustaining business or entity who worked
11 during the proclamation of disaster emergency and is engaged in
12 any of the following industries:

13 (1) Health care and social assistance.

14 (2) Food manufacturing or food retail facilities.

15 (3) Janitorial services to buildings and dwellings.

16 (4) Transit and ground passenger transportation.

17 (5) Security services for industries listed in this
18 definition.

19 (6) Commercial industries not closed during the
20 proclamation of disaster emergency.

21 "Proclamation of disaster emergency." The proclamation of
22 disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020,
23 published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of
24 the state of disaster emergency.

25 "Program." The COVID-19 Childcare for Essential Workers
26 Program established under this act.

27 Section 3. Program.

28 (a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Childcare for Essential
29 Workers Grant Program is established within the department.

30 (b) Duties of department.--The department shall provide

1 grants under the program in accordance with this act to
2 essential workers adversely affected by COVID-19. Grants
3 provided under the program shall be used for childcare services.

4 Section 4. Application forms.

5 (a) Development.--The department shall develop a grant
6 application form for applicants, including the following
7 information:

8 (1) Name, address, contact information and annual income
9 of the applicant.

10 (2) Name, address and contact information of the
11 applicant's employer.

12 (3) Name, age and childcare provider for each child of
13 the applicant.

14 (4) Current cost of childcare per month paid by the
15 applicant.

16 (5) Amount of grant money requested under the program.

17 (6) Any other information or documentation that the
18 department deems necessary and appropriate.

19 (b) Submission.--An applicant must submit the grant
20 application form and documentation required under subsection (a)
21 to the department in the manner prescribed by the department.

22 Section 5. Eligibility.

23 (a) General rule.--Except as otherwise provided in
24 subsection (b), grants may be awarded to essential workers.

25 (b) Exception.--Individuals who earn more than \$80,000 in
26 gross annual income per year or married couples who earn more
27 than \$120,000 in gross annual income per year shall not be
28 eligible for grants under this act.

29 Section 6. Applicability.

30 This act applies to childcare costs for children from birth

1 until the day prior to the date of the child's 14th birthday.
2 Children with disabilities 18 years of age or younger may be
3 eligible at the discretion of the department.

4 Section 7. Award of grants.

5 (a) Distribution of grants.--No later than 20 days after
6 receipt of the application form, the department shall make a
7 determination on the application and the amount to be awarded.

8 (b) Consideration.--In determining grants to be awarded, the
9 department shall give priority to an applicant whose gross
10 annual income is less than \$35,000.

11 (c) Notice.--After making a determination under subsection
12 (a), the department shall provide written notice to the
13 applicant of the award amount or denial of the grant. Notice of
14 a grant award to an applicant shall include the amount of the
15 grant money awarded and all conditions or restrictions on the
16 use of the grant money. Notice of a denial, either in part or in
17 full, shall include the reasons for the denial.

18 Section 8. Guidelines.

19 The department may promulgate rules, regulations and
20 guidelines for the implementation and administration of the
21 program.

22 Section 9. Public notice.

23 (a) Availability of grants.--The department shall provide
24 information regarding the availability of grants under the
25 program on the department's publicly accessible Internet
26 website.

27 (b) Report.--Following the termination or expiration of the
28 proclamation of disaster emergency, the department shall post on
29 the department's publicly accessible Internet website the amount
30 of grant money awarded under the program.

1 Section 10. Limitation on award of grants.

2 Subject to the availability of funds, a grant to an applicant
3 shall not exceed \$750 per month per child.

4 Section 11. Appropriation.

5 The sum of \$50,000,000 is appropriated to the department on a
6 continuing basis from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account
7 for the purposes of this act.

8 Section 12. Expiration.

9 (a) Notice.--Upon the expiration or termination of the
10 disaster emergency proclamation, the department shall transmit
11 notice of the expiration or termination of the program under
12 subsection (b) to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
13 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

14 (b) Authority.--The authority of the department to award
15 grants under the program shall expire three months after the
16 publication of the notice required in subsection (a).

17 Section 13. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect in 30 days.