
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2424 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY SANCHEZ, SHUSTERMAN, HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS,
MADDEN, KENYATTA, SIMS, GUENST, FRANKEL, HARRIS AND CEPHAS,
MARCH 16, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MARCH 16, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 54 (Names) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, establishing the Compassionate Name Change
3 Assistance Grant Program and the Compassionate Name Change
4 Assistance Grant Fund.

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

7 Section 1. Title 54 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 9

10 COMPASSIONATE NAME CHANGE ASSISTANCE

11 GRANT PROGRAM

12 Sec.

13 901. Definitions.

14 902. Grant program.

15 903. Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund.

16 904. Administration.

17 § 901. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
4 Development of the Commonwealth.

5 "Eligible applicant." A nonprofit organization, county or
6 local government.

7 "Eligible assistance program." A program providing support
8 and guidance that is informational, emotional, social, legal or
9 otherwise to individuals who confront biases or inequalities
10 based on gender or sexual stereotypes in navigating the process
11 of a name change in this Commonwealth.

12 "Fund." The Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund
13 established under section 903 (relating to Compassionate Name
14 Change Assistance Grant Fund).

15 "Grant program." The Compassionate Name Change Assistance
16 Grant Program established under section 902 (relating to grant
17 program).

18 "Nonprofit organization." A corporation or other entity
19 based in this Commonwealth which is an exempt organization as
20 defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
21 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)).

22 § 902. Grant program.

23 (a) Establishment.--The Compassionate Name Change Assistance
24 Grant Program is established as a competitive grant program
25 within the department.

26 (b) Uses for funds.--A grant award under the grant program
27 may only be used for the costs of administering an eligible
28 assistance program.

29 (c) Department powers and duties.--The department shall:

30 (1) Provide grants under the grant program in accordance

1 with this chapter to eligible applicants to administer
2 eligible assistance programs.

3 (2) Determine the form and manner by which an eligible
4 applicant may apply for a grant under section 904 (relating
5 to administration). The application form shall be posted on
6 the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

7 (3) Establish guidelines for implementing the grant
8 program under this section. The guidelines shall be posted on
9 the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

10 § 903. Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund.

11 (a) Establishment.--The Compassionate Name Change Assistance
12 Grant Fund is established in the State Treasury.

13 (b) Appropriation.--All money deposited in the fund and
14 interest earned on the money in the fund are appropriated to the
15 department on a continuing basis to award grants under this
16 chapter.

17 (c) Transfer from General Fund.--In addition to money
18 appropriated to the department for grants under this chapter,
19 the sum of \$2,000,000 is transferred from the General Fund to
20 the Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund.

21 (d) Administrative costs.--No more than 1% of the fund may
22 be used for reasonable administrative costs of the department in
23 administering this chapter.

24 § 904. Administration.

25 (a) Applications.--An application for a grant under this
26 chapter shall be submitted by an eligible applicant in the form
27 and manner prescribed by the department.

28 (b) Application period.--Beginning no later than 180 days
29 after the effective date of this section, the department shall
30 begin accepting and processing applications on a rolling basis

1 until the grant program funding available for the fiscal year
2 has been exhausted.

3 (c) Review process.--

4 (1) The department shall review applications and make
5 awards subject to subsection (d) on a rolling basis.

6 (2) The department shall approve or deny an application
7 no later than 30 days after the receipt of the application.
8 If the department fails to approve or deny within 30 days,
9 the application shall be deemed denied.

10 (3) An eligible applicant may revise and resubmit a
11 denied application to the department.

12 (d) Allocation.--An eligible applicant may not receive more
13 than the following amounts in a fiscal year:

14 (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3):

15 (i) The minimum grant amount awarded shall be no
16 less than \$5,000.

17 (ii) The maximum grant amount awarded may not be
18 more than \$100,000.

19 (2) The department may award a grant of no more than
20 \$75,000 to eligible applicants that are headquartered within
21 a city of the first or second class.

22 (3) The department may award a grant of between \$75,000
23 and \$100,000 to eligible applicants that are:

24 (i) headquartered outside of a city of the first or
25 second class; or

26 (ii) implementing a new eligible assistance program
27 for the first time in the same fiscal year that the grant
28 is awarded.

29 (e) Limitations.--The following apply to grant applications:

30 (1) The department may not provide grants in excess of

1 the amount of the fund.

2 (2) The department may prorate the grant amount to an
3 eligible applicant.

4 (3) The department may only award a grant to an eligible
5 applicant that establishes to the department that the
6 administration of the eligible assistance program involves at
7 least one Pennsylvanian who identifies as transgender or
8 nonbinary with specialized experience in assisting
9 individuals who confront biases or inequalities based on
10 gender or sexual stereotypes in navigating the name change
11 process in this Commonwealth.

12 (f) Evaluation.--The department shall evaluate the
13 utilization of the grant program money, including an analysis of
14 the total amount of grants awarded, each eligible applicant that
15 received a grant and the efficacy of the eligible assistance
16 programs funded through the grant program based on disaggregated
17 data. The department shall conduct the evaluation, at a minimum,
18 every three years after the establishment of the grant program
19 and shall post the evaluation on the department's publicly
20 accessible Internet website.

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.