



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 634**

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5431

*House of Representatives, April 26, 2022*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING RECEIVED BY THE STATE UNDER THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 36 of public act 21-2 of the June special session is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Community action agency" means a public or private nonprofit  
6 agency which has previously been designated by and authorized to  
7 accept funds from the federal Community Services Administration for  
8 community action agencies under the Economic Opportunity Act of  
9 1964, or a successor agency established pursuant to section 17b-892 of  
10 the general statutes;

11 (2) "Community health worker" means a public health outreach  
12 professional with an in-depth understanding of the experience,

13 language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the community and who  
14 provides a range of services, including, but not limited to, outreach,  
15 engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support,  
16 advocacy, care coordination, research related to social determinants of  
17 health and basic screenings and assessments of any risks associated with  
18 social determinants of health; and

19 (3) "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the  
20 World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019,  
21 and any related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a  
22 communicable respiratory disease.

23 (b) The Department of [Public Health] Social Services shall establish  
24 a community health worker grant program. The purpose of such  
25 program shall be to provide grants to community action agencies that  
26 employ community health workers who provide a range of services to  
27 persons adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The department  
28 may enter into an agreement, pursuant to chapter 55a of the general  
29 statutes, with a person, firm, corporation or other entity to operate such  
30 program.

31 (c) The Department of [Public Health] Social Services shall publish on  
32 its Internet web site a notice of grant availability for the period  
33 beginning on [the effective date of this section] June 23, 2021, and ending  
34 on June 30, [2023] 2024.

35 (d) Each community action agency applying for a grant under this  
36 section shall submit an application in such form and manner as  
37 prescribed by the Commissioner of [Public Health] Social Services. Each  
38 application shall include the following information: (1) The location of  
39 the principal place of business of the applicant; (2) the number of  
40 community health workers employed by the applicant [or that] and the  
41 number of community health workers the applicant seeks to employ  
42 under the grant and the range of services provided or to be provided by  
43 such community health workers; (3) an explanation of the intended use  
44 of the grant being applied for; (4) strategies for integrating community  
45 health workers into an individual's care delivery team, including, but

46 not limited to, the capacity to address health care and social services  
47 needs; and [(4)] (5) such other information that the commissioner deems  
48 necessary.

49 (e) The Department of [Public Health] Social Services shall review all  
50 grant applications received under the program and determine which  
51 applications are eligible for funding. Criteria for such determinations  
52 shall be established by the department and included in the notice of  
53 grant availability described in subsection (c) of this section.

54 (f) The amount of any grant issued to a community action agency  
55 pursuant to this section shall not exceed [thirty] forty thousand dollars  
56 annually per community health worker employed by, or planned to be  
57 employed by, such agency and the total amount of grants issued to  
58 community action agencies in the aggregate shall not exceed [six] eight  
59 million dollars. No grant shall be issued pursuant to this section after  
60 June 30, [2023] 2024.

61 [(g) (1) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Public  
62 Health shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
63 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
64 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and  
65 human services regarding the progress of the program and including  
66 any requisite legislative proposals to accomplish the goals of the  
67 program.]

68 [(2)] (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Commissioner of [Public  
69 Health] Social Services shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
70 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the community health worker  
71 grant program to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
72 having cognizance of matters relating to public health and human  
73 services. Such report shall include the following data regarding the  
74 program: [(A)] (1) The number of grants provided and the amount of  
75 such grants; [(B)] (2) the identities of the community action agencies that  
76 received such grants; [(C)] (3) the intended use of each grant provided,  
77 as described by the community action agency pursuant to subdivision  
78 (3) of subsection (d) of this section; [(D)] (4) the number of community

79 health workers employed by each community action agency that  
80 received a grant at the time such agency received such grant and  
81 information regarding the services provided by such community health  
82 workers; and [(E)] (5) the number of community health workers  
83 employed by each community action agency that received a grant at the  
84 conclusion of the program and information regarding the services  
85 provided by such community health workers.

86 Sec. 2. Section 37 of public act 21-2 of the June special session is  
87 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
88 *passage*):

89 The sum of \$3,000,000 allocated in section 41 of special act 21-15, [and]  
90 as amended by section 306 of [this act] public act 21-2 of the June special  
91 session, to the Department of Public Health, for Community Health  
92 Workers, for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30,  
93 2023, shall be for the purposes of the program established pursuant to  
94 section 36 of [this act] public act 21-2 of the June special session, as  
95 amended by this act. The Department of Public Health shall transfer  
96 such funds to the Department of Social Services.

97 Sec. 3. Section 1 of special act 21-1, as amended by section 86 of public  
98 act 21-2 of the June special session, is amended to read as follows  
99 (*Effective from passage*):

100 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, not later  
101 than [April 26, 2021] June 1, 2022, the Governor shall submit to the  
102 speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore  
103 of the Senate recommended allocations of federal funds designated for  
104 the state pursuant to the provisions of Subtitle M of Title IX of the  
105 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to  
106 time, except for any funds designated under the Coronavirus Local  
107 Fiscal Recovery Fund. Not later than five days after receipt of the  
108 recommended allocations, the speaker and the president pro tempore  
109 shall submit the recommended allocations to the joint standing  
110 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
111 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. Said

112 committee shall report their approval or modifications, if any, of such  
 113 recommended allocations to the speaker and the president pro tempore  
 114 not later than [May 16, 2021] July 1, 2022. Any partial or final allocations  
 115 of such funds shall be authorized by public or special act of the General  
 116 Assembly. Disbursement of such funds shall be in accordance with such  
 117 partial or final allocations and no disbursement of such funds shall  
 118 occur prior to such authorization.

119 (b) If it is determined that any amount allocated by the General  
 120 Assembly pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is not allowable  
 121 under guidance provided by the federal government, including, but not  
 122 limited to, the United States Treasury, the Secretary of the Office of  
 123 Policy and Management shall immediately notify the joint standing  
 124 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 125 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies of the  
 126 specific amount and recipient of such allocation and the reason for such  
 127 determination.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 21-2 of the June Sp. Sess., Sec. 36
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	PA 21-2 of the June Sp. Sess., Sec. 37
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	SA 21-1, Sec. 1

**APP**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** See Below

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

**Sections 1-2** of the bill transfer the administration of the Community Health Worker Grant Program and associated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds totaling \$6 million from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to the Department of Social Services (DSS). The bill also (1) specifies grants are provided per community health worker employed by a community action agency (CAA), (2) increases the grant amount from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per worker, (3) increases the total grants that can be distributed to CAAs from \$6 million to \$8 million, and (4) extends the date by which grants must be distributed.

**Section 3** requires the Governor to submit proposed allocations of federal funding received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act to the General Assembly and requires the General Assembly to approve the plan. This has no fiscal impact.

### **The Out Years**

Grant funds must be issued by June 30, 2024.

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**OFA Bill Analysis****HB 5431*****AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING RECEIVED BY THE STATE UNDER THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill transfers the administration of the Community Health Worker Grant Program and associated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds totaling \$6 million from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to the Department of Social Services (DSS). The bill also (1) specifies grants are provided per community health worker employed by a community action agency (CAA), (2) increases the grant amount from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per worker, (3) increases the total grants that can be distributed to CAAs from \$6 million to \$8 million, and (4) extends the date by which grants must be distributed.

This bill also requires the Governor to submit proposed allocations of federal funding received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act to the General Assembly and requires the General Assembly to approve the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Community Action Agencies***

"Community action agency" means a public or private nonprofit agency which has previously been designated by and authorized to accept funds from the federal Community Services Administration for community action agencies under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, or a successor agency established pursuant to section 17b-892 of 10 the general statutes.

***Community Health Workers***

"Community health worker" means a public health outreach

professional with an in-depth understanding of the experience, language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the community and who provides a range of services, including, but not limited to, outreach, engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination, research related to social determinants of health and basic screenings and assessments of any risks associated with social determinants of health.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/07/2022)