



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

**Governor's Bill No. 5040**

LCO No. 642



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant  
to Joint Rule 9

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-7d of the 2022 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) [Not later than January 1, 2022, the] The Commissioner of Public  
5 Health shall establish, within available resources, a program to provide  
6 three-year grants to community-based providers of primary care  
7 services in order to expand access to health care for the uninsured. The  
8 grants may be awarded to community-based providers of primary care  
9 for (1) funding for direct services, (2) recruitment and retention of  
10 primary care clinicians and registered nurses through subsidizing of  
11 salaries or through a loan repayment program, and (3) capital  
12 expenditures. The community-based providers of primary care under  
13 the direct service program shall provide, or arrange access to, primary

14 and preventive services, behavioral health services, referrals to specialty  
15 services, including rehabilitative and mental health services, inpatient  
16 care, prescription drugs, basic diagnostic laboratory services, health  
17 education and outreach to alert people to the availability of services.  
18 Primary care clinicians and registered nurses participating in the state  
19 loan repayment program or receiving subsidies shall provide services  
20 to the uninsured based on a sliding fee schedule, provide free care if  
21 necessary, accept Medicare assignment and participate as Medicaid  
22 providers, or provide nursing services in school-based health centers  
23 and expanded school health sites, as such terms are defined in section  
24 19a-6r. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with  
25 the provisions of chapter 54, to establish eligibility criteria, services to  
26 be provided by participants, the sliding fee schedule, reporting  
27 requirements and the loan repayment program. For the purposes of this  
28 section, "primary care clinicians" includes family practice physicians,  
29 general practice osteopaths, obstetricians and gynecologists, internal  
30 medicine physicians, pediatricians, dentists, certified nurse midwives,  
31 advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, [and] dental  
32 hygienists, psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers,  
33 licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed professional  
34 counselors.

35 (b) Funds appropriated for the state loan repayment program shall  
36 not lapse until fifteen months following the end of the fiscal year for  
37 which such funds were appropriated.

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

41 (a) As used in this section:

42 (1) "Community action agency" means a public or private nonprofit  
43 agency which has previously been designated by and authorized to  
44 accept funds from the federal Community Services Administration for  
45 community action agencies under the Economic Opportunity Act of

46 1964, or a successor agency established pursuant to section 17b-892 of  
47 the general statutes;

48 (2) "Community health worker" means a public health outreach  
49 professional with an in-depth understanding of the experience,  
50 language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the community and who  
51 provides a range of services, including, but not limited to, outreach,  
52 engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support,  
53 advocacy, care coordination, research related to social determinants of  
54 health and basic screenings and assessments of any risks associated with  
55 social determinants of health; and

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

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

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

72 (d) Each community action agency applying for a grant under this  
73 section shall submit an application in such form and manner as  
74 prescribed by the Commissioner of [Public Health] Social Services. Each  
75 application shall include the following information: (1) The location of  
76 the principal place of business of the applicant; (2) the number of  
77 community health workers employed by the applicant [or that] and the

78 number of community health workers the applicant seeks to employ  
79 under the grant and the range of services provided or to be provided by  
80 such community health workers; (3) an explanation of the intended use  
81 of the grant being applied for; (4) strategies for integrating community  
82 health workers into an individual's care delivery team, including, but  
83 not limited to, the capacity to address health care and social services  
84 needs; and ~~[(4)]~~ (5) such other information that the commissioner deems  
85 necessary.

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

91 (f) The amount of any grant issued to a community action agency  
92 pursuant to this section shall not exceed thirty thousand dollars  
93 annually per community health worker employed by such agency and  
94 the total amount of grants issued to community action agencies in the  
95 aggregate shall not exceed six million dollars. No grant shall be issued  
96 pursuant to this section after June 30, ~~[2023]~~ 2024.

97 ~~[(g) (1) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Public~~  
98 ~~Health shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a~~  
99 ~~of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General~~  
100 ~~Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and~~  
101 ~~human services regarding the progress of the program and including~~  
102 ~~any requisite legislative proposals to accomplish the goals of the~~  
103 ~~program.]~~

104 ~~[(2)]~~ (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Commissioner of ~~[Public~~  
105 ~~Health]~~ Social Services shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
106 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the community health worker  
107 grant program to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
108 having cognizance of matters relating to public health and human  
109 services. Such report shall include the following data regarding the

110 program: [(A)] (1) The number of grants provided and the amount of  
111 such grants; [(B)] (2) the identities of the community action agencies that  
112 received such grants; [(C)] (3) the intended use of each grant provided,  
113 as described by the community action agency pursuant to subdivision  
114 (3) of subsection (d) of this section; [(D)] (4) the number of community  
115 health workers employed by each community action agency that  
116 received a grant at the time such agency received such grant and  
117 information regarding the services provided by such community health  
118 workers; and [(E)] (5) the number of community health workers  
119 employed by each community action agency that received a grant at the  
120 conclusion of the program and information regarding the services  
121 provided by such community health workers.

122 Sec. 3. Section 37 of public act 21-2 of the June special session is  
123 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
124 *passage*):

125 The sum of \$3,000,000 allocated in section 41 of special act 21-15 and  
126 section 306 of [this act] public act 21-2 of the June special session, to the  
127 Department of Public Health, for Community Health Workers, for each  
128 of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, shall be for  
129 the purposes of the program established pursuant to section 36 of [this  
130 act] public act 21-2 of the June special session, as amended by this act.  
131 The Department of Public Health shall transfer such funds to the  
132 Department of Social Services.

133 Sec. 4. Section 321 of public act 21-2 of the June special session is  
134 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
135 *passage*):

136 The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within the ten million  
137 dollars in federal funds allocated to the Department of Social Services  
138 pursuant to section 1 of special act 21-1, in accordance with the  
139 provisions of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of  
140 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, provide temporary  
141 financial relief to nursing home facilities. [Grant allocations shall be

142 made based on the per cent difference between the issued and calculated  
143 reimbursement rate. The commissioner, within the available ten million  
144 dollars in federal funding allocated to the department for this purpose,  
145 shall issue one-time grants subject to a pro rata adjustment based on  
146 available funding.]

147 Sec. 5. Section 325 of public act 21-2 of the June special session is  
148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
149 *passage*):

150 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17b-340 of the general  
151 statutes, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the  
152 Commissioner of Social Services shall, for the purposes of providing  
153 pandemic-related support, increase the minimum per diem, per bed rate  
154 to five hundred one dollars for a residential facility licensed pursuant to  
155 section 17a-227 of the general statutes and certified to participate in the  
156 Title XIX Medicaid program as an intermediate care facility for  
157 individuals with intellectual disability.

158 Sec. 6. Section 17b-112 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes  
159 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
160 *passage*):

161 (a) The Department of Social Services shall administer a temporary  
162 family assistance program under which cash assistance shall be  
163 provided to eligible families in accordance with the temporary  
164 assistance for needy families program, established pursuant to the  
165 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of  
166 1996. The Commissioner of Social Services may operate portions of the  
167 temporary family assistance program as a solely state-funded program,  
168 separate from the federal temporary assistance for needy families  
169 program, if the commissioner determines that doing so will enable the  
170 state to avoid fiscal penalties under the temporary assistance for needy  
171 families program. Families receiving assistance under the solely state-  
172 funded portion of the temporary family assistance program shall be  
173 subject to the same conditions of eligibility as those receiving assistance

174 under the federal temporary assistance for needy families program.  
175 Under the temporary family assistance program, benefits shall be  
176 provided to a family for not longer than twenty-one months, except as  
177 provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. For the purpose of  
178 calculating said twenty-one-month time limit, months of assistance  
179 received on and after January 1, 1996, pursuant to time limits under the  
180 aid to families with dependent children program, shall be included. For  
181 purposes of this section, "family" means one or more individuals who  
182 apply for or receive assistance together under the temporary family  
183 assistance program. If the commissioner determines that federal law  
184 allows individuals not otherwise in an eligible covered group for the  
185 temporary family assistance program to become covered, such family  
186 may also, at the discretion of the commissioner, be composed of (1) a  
187 pregnant woman, or (2) a parent, both parents or other caretaker relative  
188 and at least one child who is under the age of eighteen, or who is under  
189 the age of nineteen and a full-time student in a secondary school or its  
190 equivalent. A caretaker relative shall be related to the child or children  
191 by blood, marriage or adoption or shall be the legal guardian of such a  
192 child or pursuing legal proceedings necessary to achieve guardianship.  
193 If the commissioner elects to allow state eligibility consistent with any  
194 change in federal law, the commissioner may administratively transfer  
195 any qualifying family cases under the cash assistance portion of the  
196 state-administered general assistance program to the temporary family  
197 assistance program without regard to usual eligibility and enrollment  
198 procedures. If such families become an ineligible coverage group under  
199 the federal law, the commissioner shall administratively transfer such  
200 families back to the cash assistance portion of the state-administered  
201 general assistance program without regard to usual eligibility and  
202 enrollment procedures to the degree that such families are eligible for  
203 the state program.

204 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall exempt a family from  
205 such time-limited benefits for circumstances including, but not limited  
206 to: (1) A family with a needy caretaker relative who is incapacitated or  
207 of an advanced age, as defined by the commissioner, if there is no other

208 nonexempt caretaker relative in the household; (2) a family with a needy  
209 caretaker relative who is needed in the home because of the incapacity  
210 of another member of the household, if there is no other nonexempt  
211 caretaker relative in the household; (3) a family with a caretaker relative  
212 who is not legally responsible for the dependent children in the  
213 household if such relative's needs are not considered in calculating the  
214 amount of the benefit and there is no other nonexempt caretaker relative  
215 in the household; (4) a family with a caretaker relative caring for a child  
216 who is under one year of age if there is no other nonexempt caretaker  
217 relative in the household; (5) a family with a pregnant or postpartum  
218 caretaker relative if a physician has indicated that such relative is unable  
219 to work and there is no other nonexempt caretaker relative in the  
220 household; (6) a family with a caretaker relative determined by the  
221 commissioner to be unemployable and there is no other nonexempt  
222 caretaker relative in the household; and (7) minor parents attending and  
223 satisfactorily completing high school or high school equivalency  
224 programs.

225 (c) A family who is subject to time-limited benefits may petition the  
226 Commissioner of Social Services for six-month extensions of such  
227 benefits. The commissioner shall grant not more than two extensions to  
228 such family who has made a good faith effort to comply with the  
229 requirements of the program and despite such effort has a total family  
230 income at a level below the payment standard, or has encountered  
231 circumstances preventing employment including, but not limited to: (1)  
232 Domestic violence or physical harm to such family's children; or (2)  
233 other circumstances beyond such family's control. The commissioner  
234 shall disregard ninety dollars of earned income in determining  
235 applicable family income. The commissioner may grant a subsequent  
236 six-month extension if each adult in the family meets one or more of the  
237 following criteria: (A) The adult is precluded from engaging in  
238 employment activities due to domestic violence or another reason  
239 beyond the adult's control; (B) the adult has two or more substantiated  
240 barriers to employment including, but not limited to, the lack of  
241 available child care, substance abuse or addiction, severe mental or



242 physical health problems, one or more severe learning disabilities,  
243 domestic violence or a child who has a serious physical or behavioral  
244 health problem; (C) the adult is working thirty-five or more hours per  
245 week, is earning at least the minimum wage and continues to earn less  
246 than the family's temporary family assistance payment standard; or (D)  
247 the adult is employed and works less than thirty-five hours per week  
248 due to (i) a documented medical impairment that limits the adult's  
249 hours of employment, provided the adult works the maximum number  
250 of hours that the medical condition permits, or (ii) the need to care for a  
251 disabled member of the adult's household, provided the adult works the  
252 maximum number of hours the adult's caregiving responsibilities  
253 permit. Families receiving temporary family assistance shall be notified  
254 by the department of the right to petition for such extensions.  
255 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the commissioner shall  
256 not provide benefits under the state's temporary family assistance  
257 program to a family that is subject to the twenty-one month benefit limit  
258 and has received benefits beginning on or after October 1, 1996, if such  
259 benefits result in that family's receiving more than sixty months of time-  
260 limited benefits unless that family experiences domestic violence, as  
261 defined in Section 402(a)(7)(B), P.L. 104-193. For the purpose of  
262 calculating said sixty-month limit: (I) A month shall count toward the  
263 limit if the family receives assistance for any day of the month, provided  
264 any months of temporary family assistance received during the public  
265 health emergency declared by Governor Ned Lamont related to the  
266 COVID-19 pandemic shall not be included, and (II) a month in which a  
267 family receives temporary assistance for needy families benefits that are  
268 issued from a jurisdiction other than Connecticut shall count toward the  
269 limit.

270 (d) Under said program, no family shall be eligible that has total gross  
271 earnings exceeding the federal poverty level, however, in the calculation  
272 of the benefit amount for eligible families and previously eligible  
273 families that become ineligible temporarily because of receipt of  
274 workers' compensation benefits by a family member who subsequently  
275 returns to work immediately after the period of receipt of such benefits,

276 earned income shall be disregarded up to the federal poverty level.  
277 Except when determining eligibility for a six-month extension of  
278 benefits pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the commissioner  
279 shall disregard the first fifty dollars per month of income attributable to  
280 current child support that a family receives in determining eligibility  
281 and benefit levels for temporary family assistance. Any current child  
282 support in excess of fifty dollars per month collected by the department  
283 on behalf of an eligible child shall be considered in determining  
284 eligibility but shall not be considered when calculating benefits and  
285 shall be taken as reimbursement for assistance paid under this section,  
286 except that when the current child support collected exceeds the family's  
287 monthly award of temporary family assistance benefits plus fifty  
288 dollars, the current child support shall be paid to the family and shall be  
289 considered when calculating benefits.

290 (e) A family receiving assistance under said program shall cooperate  
291 with child support enforcement, under title IV-D of the Social Security  
292 Act. A family shall be ineligible for benefits for failure to cooperate with  
293 child support enforcement.

294 (f) A family leaving assistance at the end of (1) said twenty-one-  
295 month time limit, including a family with income above the payment  
296 standard, or (2) the sixty-month limit shall have an interview for the  
297 purpose of being informed of services that may continue to be available  
298 to such family, including employment services available through the  
299 Labor Department. Such interview shall include (A) a determination of  
300 benefits available to the family provided by the Department of Social  
301 Services; and (B) a determination of whether such family is eligible for  
302 supplemental nutrition assistance or Medicaid. Information and  
303 referrals shall be made to such a family for services and benefits  
304 including, but not limited to, the earned income tax credit, rental  
305 subsidies emergency housing, employment services and energy  
306 assistance.

307 [(g) Notwithstanding section 17b-104, commencing on July 1, 2023,  
308 the Commissioner of Social Services shall provide an annual cost-of-

309 living adjustment in temporary family assistance benefits equal to the  
 310 most recent percentage increase in the consumer price index for urban  
 311 consumers whenever funds appropriated for temporary family  
 312 assistance lapse at the close of any fiscal year and such adjustment has  
 313 not otherwise been included in the budget for the assistance program,  
 314 provided the increase would not create a budget deficiency in  
 315 succeeding years. The commissioner shall provide a prorated benefit  
 316 increase from such available lapsed funds in any fiscal year when such  
 317 funds are not sufficient to cover a cost-of-living adjustment in  
 318 accordance with this subsection.]

319 [(h)] (g) An applicant or recipient of temporary family assistance who  
 320 is adversely affected by a decision of the Commissioner of Social  
 321 Services may request and shall be provided a hearing in accordance  
 322 with section 17b-60.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	19a-7d
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	PA 21-2 of the June Sp. Sess., Sec. 36
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	PA 21-2 of the June Sp. Sess., Sec. 37
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	PA 21-2 of the June Sp. Sess., Sec. 321
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	PA 21-2 of the June Sp. Sess., Sec. 325
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	17b-112

**Statement of Purpose:**

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*