



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5040**

February Session, 2022



**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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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.

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

**HS** Joint Favorable Subst.