



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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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

APP Joint Favorable