



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

**Raised Bill No. 5431**

LCO No. 2948



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:  
(APP)

***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 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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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, or planned to be  
94 employed by, such agency and the total amount of grants issued to  
95 community action agencies in the aggregate shall not exceed six million  
96 dollars. No grant shall be issued pursuant to this section after June 30,  
97 [2023] 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

205 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall exempt a family from  
206 such time-limited benefits for circumstances including, but not limited  
207 to: (1) A family with a needy caretaker relative who is incapacitated or  
208 of an advanced age, as defined by the commissioner, if there is no other  
209 nonexempt caretaker relative in the household; (2) a family with a needy

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

308 [(g) Notwithstanding section 17b-104, commencing on July 1, 2023,  
309 the Commissioner of Social Services shall provide an annual cost-of-  
310 living adjustment in temporary family assistance benefits equal to the

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

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

324 Sec. 7. Section 1 of special act 21-1, as amended by section 86 of public  
325 act 21-2 of the June special session, is amended to read as follows  
326 (*Effective from passage*):

327 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, not later  
328 than [April 26, 2021] June 1, 2022, the Governor shall submit to the  
329 speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore  
330 of the Senate recommended allocations of federal funds designated for  
331 the state pursuant to the provisions of Subtitle M of Title IX of the  
332 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to  
333 time, except for any funds designated under the Coronavirus Local  
334 Fiscal Recovery Fund. Not later than five days after receipt of the  
335 recommended allocations, the speaker and the president pro tempore  
336 shall submit the recommended allocations to the joint standing  
337 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
338 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. Said  
339 committee shall report their approval or modifications, if any, of such  
340 recommended allocations to the speaker and the president pro tempore  
341 not later than [May 16, 2021] July 1, 2022. Any partial or final allocations  
342 of such funds shall be authorized by public or special act of the General  
343 Assembly. Disbursement of such funds shall be in accordance with such

344 partial or final allocations and no disbursement of such funds shall  
 345 occur prior to such authorization.

346 (b) If it is determined that any amount allocated by the General  
 347 Assembly pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is not allowable  
 348 under guidance provided by the federal government, including, but not  
 349 limited to, the United States Treasury, the Secretary of the Office of  
 350 Policy and Management shall immediately notify the joint standing  
 351 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 352 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies of the  
 353 specific amount and recipient of such allocation and the reason for such  
 354 determination.

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
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	SA 21-1, Sec. 1

**Statement of Purpose:**

To make changes concerning the expenditure of funds received by the state under the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

*[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.]*