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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 25 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, CIRESI, GILLEN, INNAMORATO, KAZEEM,  
R. MACKENZIE, ORTITAY, SCHLOSSBERG AND STURLA, MARCH 7, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 7, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, establishing the Adult Education Workforce Recovery  
3 Grant Program and the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery  
4 Grant Program Fund; and making a transfer.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 24 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
8 Statutes is amended by adding a part to read:

9 PART II-A

10 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

11 Chapter

12 31. Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program

13 CHAPTER 31

14 ADULT EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

15 Sec.

16 3101. Scope of chapter.

17 3102. Definitions.

18 3103. Grant program.

19 3104. Grant awards.

- 1 3105. Procedure for grant issuance.
- 2 3106. Limit on administrative costs.
- 3 3107. Annual report.
- 4 3108. Report contents.
- 5 § 3101. Scope of chapter.

6 This chapter relates to the Adult Education and Workforce  
7 Recovery Grant Program Act.

8 § 3102. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
10 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Adult education provider." An approved educational agency,  
13 institution or organization making use of either professional or  
14 voluntary personnel. The term includes:

15 (1) A school district.

16 (2) An intermediate unit.

17 (3) An area career and technical school.

18 (4) A community college.

19 (5) A literacy council.

20 (6) A local library.

21 (7) A community-based organization that is private, a  
22 nonprofit organization and representative of communities or  
23 significant parts of communities and provides adult or family  
24 literacy education programs.

25 (8) An educational entity recognized by the Secretary of  
26 Education for providing appropriate and effective adult basic  
27 or family literacy education programs.

28 (9) An education entity recognized by the Secretary of  
29 Education for providing appropriate and effective education  
30 exclusively to adult populations.

1 "Eligible program participant." An individual who has  
2 attained 18 years of age and satisfies one of the following:

3 (1) is basic skills deficient;

4 (2) does not have a secondary school diploma or its  
5 recognized equivalent and has not achieved an equivalent  
6 level of education;

7 (3) is an English language learner; or

8 (4) requires additional training to reenter the  
9 workforce after a job loss or gap in employment.

10 "Fund." The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant  
11 Program Fund established under section 3103(b) (relating to  
12 grant program).

13 "Grant." A grant issued by the department under this  
14 chapter.

15 "High school equivalency credential." The Commonwealth  
16 Secondary School Diploma available to residents of this  
17 Commonwealth who do not possess a high school diploma and have  
18 met the criteria specified in 22 Pa. Code § 4.72 (relating to  
19 credentials other than the high school diploma).

20 "Program." The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant  
21 Program established under section 3103(a).

22 § 3103. Grant program.

23 (a) Establishment.--The Adult Education and Workforce  
24 Recovery Grant Program is established in the department. The  
25 program shall provide grants in accordance with this chapter.

26 (b) Fund.--The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant  
27 Program Fund is established in the State Treasury.

28 (c) Source of fund.--

29 (1) The sum of \$15,000,000 in Federal money paid to the  
30 Commonwealth under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

1 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 4) shall be transferred to the  
2 fund and, subject to payment of administrative costs under  
3 section 3106 (relating to limit on administrative costs),  
4 shall be allocated as follows:

5 (i) Eighty percent of the remaining money in the  
6 fund shall be used to provide grants to the entities  
7 described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7)  
8 and (8) of the definition of "adult education provider"  
9 in section 3102 (relating to definitions).

10 (ii) Twenty percent of the remaining money in the  
11 fund shall be used to provide grants to entities  
12 described in paragraph (9) of the definition of "adult  
13 education provider" in section 3102 for programs that  
14 serve adult learners who hold a secondary diploma or a  
15 recognized equivalent and need additional training to  
16 reenter the workforce.

17 (2) The department may reallocate between the grants  
18 specified in paragraph (1)(i) and (ii) any unspent money  
19 resulting from insufficient applicants following the initial  
20 grant application period.

21 (d) Administration.--The department shall make competitive  
22 grants available to adult education providers for the following  
23 purposes:

24 (1) Upskilling working-age adults for the post-COVID  
25 workforce.

26 (2) Providing support to adult learners in completing a  
27 high school equivalency credential.

28 (3) Providing technical training or job training  
29 necessary to secure employment to participants coenrolled in  
30 adult basic education or transitioning directly from adult

1 basic education.

2 (4) Providing tuition assistance for grant participants  
3 coenrolled in adult basic education or transitioning directly  
4 from adult basic education.

5 (5) Providing digital literacy training.

6 (6) Providing career services, including career  
7 exploration, planning and support identifying and evaluating  
8 education and job training programs.

9 § 3104. Grant awards.

10 (a) Eligibility.--An adult education provider shall be  
11 eligible to apply for a grant under the program.

12 (b) Guidelines.--The department shall develop guidelines  
13 that specify the requirements for grants. The guidelines shall  
14 include:

15 (1) The grant application process.

16 (2) Allowed and disallowed expenses.

17 (3) The method by which grantees will be evaluated on  
18 performance to include outcome-based metrics.

19 (c) Awards.--

20 (1) The department may not award a grant in excess of  
21 \$500,000 to a qualified applicant.

22 (2) The department may award a grant for a multipartner  
23 collaboration, in which case the dollar limit in paragraph  
24 (1) shall not apply.

25 § 3105. Procedure for grant issuance.

26 (a) Application.--An eligible adult education provider may  
27 submit an application to the department requesting a grant.

28 (b) Application requirements.--A completed application must  
29 describe the proposed grant activities in the form and manner  
30 prescribed by the department. An application must include all of

1 the following:

2 (1) A description of the programming and services the  
3 adult education provider will offer in support of one or more  
4 of the purposes outlined in section 3103(d) (relating to  
5 grant program).

6 (2) A description of the manner in which the adult  
7 education provider will meet the guidelines under section  
8 3104(b) (relating to grant awards).

9 (3) A projection of costs associated with the proposed  
10 grant activities, including an enumeration of opportunities  
11 to leverage other funding and programming resources.

12 (4) Information on occupations that will be the focus of  
13 the program, including data on local demand.

14 (5) A description of strategies to recruit eligible  
15 program participants.

16 (6) Information on industry-recognized credentials or  
17 certifications awarded to program participants upon  
18 completion of an education or job training.

19 (7) A start date for the proposed grant activities.

20 (8) A list of clear objectives and measurable goals that  
21 the adult education provider will seek to achieve.

22 (c) Approval process.--The department shall review and  
23 approve grant applications that, in the sole discretion of the  
24 department, satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

25 (d) Contractual relationship.--Within 30 days of the  
26 completion of the approval process, the department shall enter  
27 into a contract with each adult education provider approved for  
28 a grant. The contract shall require the signatories to provide  
29 the services described in the approved application from money  
30 appropriated or distributed for this purpose.

1 § 3106. Limit on administrative costs.

2 No more than 5% of the money in the fund may be used by the  
3 department for administrative costs.

4 § 3107. Annual report.

5 Not later than September 1 of each year, the department shall  
6 submit a report regarding the implementation and outcomes of  
7 grants over the previous fiscal year to the following:

8 (1) The Governor.

9 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
10 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

11 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
12 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

13 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
14 Education Committee of the Senate.

15 (5) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
16 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

17 § 3108. Report contents.

18 In addition to information or analysis required by the  
19 department, the annual report shall include information about  
20 each grant awarded, including:

21 (1) If the grant achieved the clear objectives and  
22 measurable goals proposed under section 3105(b)(8) (relating  
23 to procedure for grant issuance).

24 (2) The number of eligible program participants.

25 (3) The amount expended.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.