

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

H. B. No. 464

Representatives Jarrells, Williams

**Cosponsors: Representatives McNally, Isaacsohn, Upchurch, Somani, Brewer,
Miller, A., Miller, J., Miranda, Grim, Piccolantonio, Russo, Brown, Click**

A BILL

To establish the 'A HAND UP' pilot program, to 1
designate this act as the Actionable Help And 2
New Dignity for Upward Progression (A HAND UP) 3
Act, and to make an appropriation. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. (A) (1) The Department of Job and Family 5
Services shall establish a three-year pilot program known as the 6
Actionable Help and New Dignity for Upward Progression (A HAND 7
UP) pilot program. Under the pilot program, the Department shall 8
assist program participants in transitioning into the workforce 9
as they become ineligible for public assistance benefits. 10

(2) The Department shall select four counties in which to 11
operate the pilot program. In selecting counties, the Department 12
shall select one metropolitan county; one midsize county; and 13
two rural counties, one of which is located in the Appalachian 14
region of the state. 15

(B) Not later than one hundred eighty days after the 16
effective date of this section, the Department shall have the 17

pilot program fully operational. The Department shall do all of	18
the following in setting up the pilot program:	19
(1) Establish eligibility criteria for individuals	20
participating in the pilot program;	21
(2) Establish conditions for continued participation in	22
the pilot program;	23
(3) Establish a competitive application process for	24
employers seeking to participate in the pilot program;	25
(4) Identify existing subsidized employment programs and	26
provide training to program operators seeking to participate in	27
the pilot program;	28
(5) Establish an assessment tool to determine the success	29
of employers participating in the pilot program;	30
(6) Establish a process by which pilot program	31
participants are connected with employers participating in the	32
program;	33
(7) Establish a mentorship program, including training for	34
mentors, that connects pilot program participants with program	35
mentors;	36
(8) Identify and establish a financial literacy program	37
for pilot program participants.	38
(C) Under the pilot program, the Department shall do both	39
of the following:	40
(1) Provide pilot program participants a stipend, on a	41
sliding scale as determined by the Department, that each	42
participant may use to pay for health care insurance premiums	43
and deductibles or for child care expenses;	44

(2) Provide employers that participate in the pilot program with subsidies for employing pilot program participants.

(D) Not later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this section, the Department shall adopt rules, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, as necessary to implement the pilot program.

(E) To assist with the administration and operation of the pilot program, the Department shall establish a digital application that does all of the following:

(1) Calculates a participant's income based on the individual's benefits received and income earned;

(2) Connects participants with pilot program resources;

(3) Provides educational and motivational resources to participants;

(4) Connects participants with mentors or pilot program case workers.

In developing the digital application, the Department may work in collaboration with the Office of InnovateOhio.

(F) If a county department of job and family services representing a county selected to participate in the pilot program has established an individual development account program under section 329.12 of the Revised Code, the Department of Job and Family Services shall request a waiver from the United States Department of Health and Human Services to allow pilot program participants in those counties to use individual development account funds for purposes other than those specified in 45 C.F.R. 263.22, such as rental assistance, moving costs, utilities, and transportation costs.

(G) (1) As part of the pilot program, the Department of Job and Family Services shall study participants once they have completed participation in the program to determine all of the following:

- (a) Whether they are employed;
- (b) The type of employment in which they are engaged;
- (c) The amount of compensation they are receiving;
- (d) Whether their employer provides health insurance;
- (e) Whether and how often they have received public assistance since completing participation in the program;
- (f) Whether they are successfully self-sufficient.

(2) The Department shall include the results of this study in the annual reports it submits to the General Assembly under division (H) of this section.

(H) Beginning one year after the effective date of this section, the Department shall submit a report to the General Assembly. Thereafter, the Department shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly at the end of each calendar year in which the pilot program operates. The reports shall specify the outcomes of the pilot program, including data indicating the ways in which the pilot program is assisting participants in transitioning from receiving public assistance benefits to the workforce. The reports shall be submitted in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code.

Section 2. All items in this act are hereby appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year

2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 101
 The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 102
 any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 103

Section 3. 104

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A	JFS DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	600551	Job and Family Services Program Support	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM SUPPORT 106

The foregoing appropriation item 600551, Job and Family 107
 Services Program Support, shall be used to support the A Hand Up 108
 pilot program in accordance with Section 1 of this act. 109

On July 1, 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter, the 110
 Director of Job and Family Services shall certify to the 111
 Director of Budget and Management the amount of the unexpended, 112
 unencumbered balance of the foregoing appropriation item 600551, 113
 Job and Family Services Program Support, relating to the A Hand 114
 Up pilot program at the end of fiscal year 2024 to be 115
 reappropriated to fiscal year 2025. The amount certified is 116

hereby reappropriated to the same appropriation item for the 117
same purpose in fiscal year 2025. 118

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 119
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 120
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 121
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 122
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 123
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 124
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 125
applicable provisions of, H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly. 126

Section 5. This act shall be known as the Actionable Help 127
And New Dignity for Upward Progression (A HAND UP) Act. 128