

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1790 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY SCOTT, FREEMAN, RIVERA, HILL-EVANS, D. WILLIAMS,  
SANCHEZ, MAYES, MALAGARI AND CIRESI, AUGUST 6, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, AUGUST 10, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), entitled "An  
2 act licensing and regulating the practice of social work;  
3 providing penalties; and making an appropriation,"  
4 establishing the Future Licensed Clinical Social Workers,  
5 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed  
6 Professional Counselors Grant Program; and imposing duties on  
7 the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known  
11 as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and  
12 Professional Counselors Act, is amended by adding a section to  
13 read:

14 Section 6.1. Future Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed  
15 Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed  
16 Professional Counselors Grant Program.

17 (a) Establishment of program.--The Future Licensed Clinical  
18 Social Workers, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and  
19 Licensed Professional Counselors Grant Program is established  
20 within the agency.

1 (b) Duties of agency.--

2 (1) The agency shall, in consultation with the board,  
3 administer the program and award grants on a first-come,  
4 first-served basis to individuals who submit a completed  
5 application and satisfy the eligibility criteria under  
6 paragraph (3). No later than 180 days after the effective  
7 date of this paragraph, the agency shall develop an  
8 application form that individuals may use to apply for a  
9 grant under the program.

10 (2) The agency shall use money appropriated for the  
11 purpose of the program and may accept funding from public and  
12 private sources, including the Federal Government, for the  
13 payment of grants to support individuals completing required  
14 hours of supervised clinical experience to become licensed  
15 clinical social workers, licensed marriage and family  
16 therapists or licensed professional counselors.

17 (3) The agency shall establish eligibility criteria in  
18 order for an individual to receive a grant under the program.  
19 The eligibility criteria shall include, at a minimum, that an  
20 individual:

21 (i) Be a resident of this Commonwealth as defined by  
22 the agency.

23 (ii) Meet one of the following requirements:

24 (A) Have received a master's degree in social  
25 work or social welfare and be in the process of  
26 completing the required hours of supervised clinical  
27 experience to become a licensed clinical social  
28 worker in accordance with section 7(d)(3).

29 (B) Be licensed as a licensed associate marriage  
30 and family therapist and be in the process of

1 completing the required hours of supervised clinical  
2 experience to become a licensed marriage and family  
3 therapist in accordance with section 7(e)(3).

4 (C) Be licensed as a licensed associate  
5 professional counselor and be in the process of  
6 completing the required hours of supervised clinical  
7 experience to become a licensed professional  
8 counselor in accordance with section 7(f)(3).

9 (iii) Be ineligible to receive a grant and has not  
10 received a grant under section 1318-B of the act of March  
11 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code  
12 of 1949.

13 (iv) Enter into a contract with the agency to work  
14 as a licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage  
15 and family therapist or licensed professional counselor  
16 in this Commonwealth, following the completion of the  
17 individual's required hours of supervised clinical  
18 experience needed to become a fully licensed  
19 professional, for a period of not less than two years,  
20 unless the agency determines that there are extenuating  
21 circumstances.

22 (c) Grant amount.--A recipient shall receive a grant under  
23 the program of \$5,000.

24 (d) Taxability.--For the purposes of computing the tax under  
25 Article III of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as  
26 the Tax Reform Code of 1971, the classes of income under section  
27 303 of the Tax Reform Code of 1971 shall not include a payment  
28 received by an individual under this section.

29 (e) Number of grants.--An individual may not receive more  
30 than one grant under the program.

1     (f) Reports.--

2         (1) No later than September 30, 2026, and each September  
3         30 thereafter, the agency shall issue a report detailing the  
4         operation of the program to the extent that money is  
5         available to award grants under the program.

6         (2) Each report under this subsection, at a minimum,  
7         must include the following information regarding grants under  
8         the program for the previous fiscal year:

9             (i) The number of grant applicants.

10            (ii) The number of grants awarded.

11            (iii) The number of grants awarded to individuals  
12            seeking to become licensed clinical social workers.

13            (iv) The number of grants awarded to individuals  
14            seeking to become licensed marriage and family  
15            therapists.

16            (v) The number of grants awarded to individuals  
17            seeking to become licensed professional counselors.

18         (3) The agency shall deliver each report under this  
19         subsection to:

20             (i) The Governor.

21             (ii) The Secretary of Education.

22             (iii) The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

23             (iv) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
24             Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee  
25             of the Senate.

26             (v) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
27             Professional Licensure Committee of the House of  
28             Representatives.

29             (vi) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
30             Education Committee of the Senate.

1           (vii) The chairperson and minority chairperson of  
2           the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

3           (4) Each report under this subsection shall be posted on  
4           the publicly accessible Internet website of the agency.

5           (g) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
6           words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
7           subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

8           "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
9           Agency.

10          "Program." The Future Licensed Clinical Social Workers,  
11          Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed  
12          Professional Counselors Grant Program established under  
13          subsection (a).

14          "Supervised clinical experience." Experience as a supervisee  
15          in a setting that is organized to prepare an individual for the  
16          practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy or  
17          professional counseling in accordance with the requirements  
18          established by the board.

19          Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.