
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2127 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, ROZZI, D. WILLIAMS, SCHLOSSBERG, WARREN,
DRISCOLL, MALAGARI, SANCHEZ, GUENST AND KIM, DECEMBER 2, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, DECEMBER 2, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing the State Emergency Supplemental Grant Program;
2 imposing duties on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management
3 Agency; and establishing the State Emergency Supplemental
4 Assistance Fund.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the State
9 Emergency Supplemental Grant Program Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Disaster." An event that causes substantial damage in this
15 Commonwealth, including a natural disaster, that requires a
16 disaster declaration.

17 "Eligible item." An essential item that is covered under the
18 program if damaged in a Federal disaster declaration or State

1 disaster declaration, including:

- 2 (1) Housing.
- 3 (2) Temporary rental assistance.
- 4 (3) Personal property.
- 5 (4) Medical or dental care.
- 6 (5) Transportation.
- 7 (6) Funeral costs.
- 8 (7) Any other essential item.

9 "Eligible person." A person who:

10 (1) If an individual, is a resident of this Commonwealth
11 or, if an entity, has its principal place of business in this
12 Commonwealth.

13 (2) Experiences damage as the direct result of a
14 disaster in this Commonwealth that received a disaster
15 declaration.

16 (3) For a Federal disaster declaration, has applied for
17 a grant through the Federal agency and has received the
18 maximum grant from the Federal agency's individual assistance
19 grant programs.

20 "Federal agency." The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

21 "Federal disaster declaration." A federally declared
22 disaster declaration granted by the President of the United
23 States at the request of the Governor that indicates a disaster
24 situation exists in this Commonwealth and allows for the
25 implementation of individual assistance programs.

26 "Federally appraised loss." The assessed value of damage
27 sustained from a disaster as determined by the Federal
28 Government.

29 "Fund." The State Emergency Supplemental Assistance Fund
30 established under section 6.

1 "Program." The State Emergency Supplemental Grant Program
2 established under section 3.

3 "State agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management
4 Agency.

5 "State disaster." A declaration by the Governor of disaster
6 emergency under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c) (relating to general
7 authority of Governor).

8 "Supplemental grant." A grant award provided by the program
9 through the State agency to an eligible person.

10 Section 3. State Emergency Supplemental Grant Program.

11 (a) Establishment.--The State Emergency Supplemental Grant
12 Program is established within the State agency.

13 (b) Administration.--The State agency shall administer the
14 program for the purpose of providing supplemental grants to
15 eligible persons who have:

16 (1) For a Federal disaster declaration, received the
17 maximum grant allowance from the Federal agency's programs;
18 or

19 (2) For a State disaster declaration, sustained loss of
20 an eligible item.

21 Section 4. Program guidelines.

22 (a) Application.--The State agency shall coordinate with the
23 Federal agency on a procedure that permits an application from
24 an eligible person for assistance from the Federal agency to be
25 automatically transmitted to the State agency for processing
26 after the individual receives the maximum grant award from the
27 Federal agency. The State agency shall:

28 (1) Use information obtained from the Federal agency to
29 award supplemental grants.

30 (2) Follow the Federal agency's guidelines to determine

1 and administer supplemental grants under the program.

2 (b) Use of supplemental grant money.--Supplemental grant
3 money may only be used for eligible items and shall be spent on
4 the eligible items for which the funding was specifically
5 awarded.

6 (c) Grant amounts.--

7 (1) For a Federal disaster declaration, an eligible
8 person may receive a supplemental grant equal to the
9 difference between the grant amount received from the Federal
10 agency and the federally appraised loss, provided that the
11 supplemental grant award does not exceed \$10,000.

12 (2) For a State disaster declaration, an eligible person
13 who is:

14 (i) An individual may receive a supplemental grant
15 not to exceed an amount determined by the State agency.

16 (ii) An entity may receive a supplemental grant not
17 to exceed an amount determined by the State agency.

18 (3) In determining the amounts under paragraph (2), the
19 State agency may consider the number of applications, the
20 amount of loss of eligible items and the amount of available
21 money in the fund.

22 (d) Exclusions.--The following items shall not be covered
23 under the program:

24 (1) Home improvements, additions and upgrades on real or
25 personal property.

26 (2) Preexisting conditions on housing or personal
27 property.

28 (3) Landscaping.

29 (4) Recreational real or personal property.

30 (5) Debts or other financial obligations that a person

1 incurred prior to the disaster.

2 (6) Luxury, nonessential and decorative items.

3 (7) Cash.

4 (8) Other items determined by the State agency to be
5 nonessential.

6 Section 5. Repayment of grants.

7 An eligible person may not be required to repay a
8 supplemental grant unless the supplemental grant money was not
9 spent according to the program guidelines or was obtained
10 fraudulently. In such case, the total amount of the supplemental
11 grant received shall be repaid to the State agency under such
12 terms as specified by the State agency.

13 Section 6. State Emergency Supplemental Assistance Fund.

14 The State Emergency Supplemental Assistance Fund is
15 established in the State Treasury. The money in the fund is
16 appropriated on a continuing basis to the State agency for the
17 purposes of supplemental grants under the program.

18 Section 7. Funding.

19 Beginning in fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year
20 thereafter, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board shall transfer
21 \$5,000,000 to the fund.

22 Section 8. Regulations.

23 The State agency shall promulgate regulations necessary to
24 administer this act.

25 Section 9. Effective date.

26 This act shall take effect in 90 days.