
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 369 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY A. DAVIS, KRAJEWSKI, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, ZABEL,
DALEY, HOWARD, PASHINSKI, CIRESI, CONKLIN, HARRIS, BRADFORD,
DEASY, SIMS, HOHENSTEIN, KIRKLAND, DeLUCA, O'MARA AND
GALLOWAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Child Care Grant Program for Front Line Medical
2 Facility Personnel; providing for duties of the Department of
3 Community and Economic Development; establishing the Child
4 Care Grant Program for Front Line Medical Facility Personnel
5 Fund; and making an appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Child Care
10 Grant Program for Front Line Medical Facility Personnel Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

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

15 "Applicant." An individual who applies for a grant in
16 accordance with this act.

17 "Child." The term includes a stepchild.

18 "Child care expenses." Child care expenses incurred by a

1 health care practitioner or custodial worker employed at a
2 medical facility during the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

3 "COVID-19 disaster emergency." The disaster emergency
4 declared in the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the
5 Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21,
6 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

7 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
8 Development of the Commonwealth.

9 "Eligible child." A child who is:

10 (1) under 13 years of age; or

11 (2) between 13 years of age and 19 years of age and has
12 a disability, developmental delay, injury or impairment.

13 "Fund." The Child Care Grant Program for Front Line Medical
14 Facility Personnel Fund established in section 5.

15 "Grant." A grant for reimbursement of child care expenses
16 under the program.

17 "Health care practitioner." An individual who is authorized
18 to practice some component of the healing arts by a license,
19 permit, certificate or registration issued by a Commonwealth
20 licensing agency or board.

21 "Household income." All money or property received by a
22 household of whatever nature and from whatever source derived.

23 The term does not include the following:

24 (1) Periodic payments for sickness and disability other
25 than regular wages received during a period of sickness or
26 disability.

27 (2) Disability, retirement or other payments arising
28 under workers' compensation acts, occupational disease acts
29 and similar legislation by any government.

30 (3) Payments commonly recognized as old-age or

1 retirement benefits paid to persons retired from service
2 after reaching a specific age or after a stated period of
3 employment.

4 (4) Payments commonly known as public assistance or
5 unemployment compensation payments by a governmental agency.

6 (5) Payments to reimburse actual expenses.

7 (6) Payments made by employers or labor unions for
8 programs covering hospitalization, sickness, disability or
9 death, supplemental unemployment benefits, strike benefits,
10 Social Security and retirement.

11 (7) Compensation received by members of the armed forces
12 of the United States serving in a combat zone.

13 "Medical facility." Any public or private hospital, clinic,
14 center, medical school, medical training institution, health
15 care facility, physician's office, infirmary, dispensary,
16 ambulatory surgical treatment center or other institution or
17 location wherein medical care is provided to any person.

18 "Program." The Child Care Grant Program for Front Line
19 Medical Facility Personnel established in section 3.
20 Section 3. Program.

21 (a) Establishment.--The Child Care Grant Program for Front
22 Line Medical Facility Personnel is established. The program
23 shall be administered by the department to provide grants to
24 reimburse health care practitioners and custodial workers
25 employed at medical facilities for child care expenses incurred
26 during the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

27 (b) Eligibility.--The following apply:

28 (1) The department may award a grant to an individual
29 who incurs child care expenses for an eligible child if the
30 individual has household income no greater than \$75,000 and

1 is one of the following:

2 (i) a health care practitioner at a medical
3 facility; or

4 (ii) a custodial worker at a medical facility.

5 (2) A household income amount of \$150,000 shall apply in
6 determining eligibility under this subsection if more than
7 one individual in the household:

8 (i) incurs child care expenses for the same child;
9 and

10 (ii) meets the qualifications under paragraph (1)(i)
11 or (ii).

12 Section 4. Application.

13 (a) Submission.--An individual may submit an application to
14 the department requesting a grant. The application shall be on
15 the form required by the department and shall include or
16 demonstrate all of the following:

17 (1) The name and address of the applicant.

18 (2) A statement that the applicant is an eligible
19 recipient under the program.

20 (3) A statement of the amount of grant sought.

21 (4) Verification of child care expenses incurred
22 following the COVID-19 disaster emergency declaration.

23 (4) Reasonable proof of household income.

24 (5) Verification of the employment status of the
25 applicant, including job title and place of employment, as
26 prescribed by the department.

27 (6) Any other information required by the department.

28 (b) Review.--The department shall review the application to
29 determine whether the applicant is eligible to receive a grant.

30 (c) Approval.--The following shall apply:

1 (1) Upon being satisfied that all requirements have been
2 met, the department may approve the application and award to
3 an applicant a grant in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for
4 each eligible child for which the applicant has incurred
5 child care expenses.

6 (2) The department may impose any other terms and
7 conditions on the grants authorized under this act as the
8 department determines is in the best interest of the
9 Commonwealth.

10 Section 5. Fund.

11 The Child Care Grant Program for Front Line Medical Facility
12 Personnel Fund is established in the State Treasury as a special
13 fund. The money in the fund shall be used by the department to
14 carry out the provisions of this act.

15 Section 6. Limitations.

16 The following apply:

17 (1) In no case shall the aggregate amount of grants paid
18 under this act exceed the appropriation to the fund for the
19 program.

20 (2) In the event that the money in the fund is
21 insufficient to provide grants to all grant recipients,
22 grants shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

23 (3) A grant awarded under this act shall in no way
24 constitute an entitlement derived from the Commonwealth or a
25 claim on any other funds of the Commonwealth.

26 Section 7. Guidelines.

27 The department shall develop written guidelines for the
28 program.

29 Section 8. Appropriation.

30 The sum of \$5,000,000, or as much thereof as may be

1 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Child Care Grant
2 Program for Front Line Medical Facility Personnel Fund to be
3 used exclusively for the purposes of this act.

4 Section 9. Applicability.

5 This act shall apply to child care expenses incurred
6 beginning March 6, 2020, until the COVID-19 disaster emergency
7 declaration is terminated or expires under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c)
8 (relating to general authority of Governor).

9 Section 10. Effective date.

10 This act shall take effect immediately.