

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 462 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BARTOLOTTA, VOGEL, AUMENT, ROBINSON, COSTA, KEARNEY, COLLETT, CAPPELLETTI, DILLON, COMMITTA, GEBHARD AND L. WILLIAMS, MARCH 3, 2023

SENATOR ARGALL, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, JUNE 6, 2023

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant
2 Program and the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant <--
3 Program Fund; AND imposing powers and duties on the <--
4 Department of Education; and making a transfer. <--

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 6 Chapter 1. Preliminary Provisions
7 Section 101. Short title.
8 Section 102. Definitions.
9 Chapter 3. Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program
10 Section 301. Establishment.
11 Section 302. Grants.
12 Section 303. Procedure for grant issuance.
13 Chapter 9. Reporting
14 Section 901. Annual report.
15 Section 902. Report contents.
16 Chapter 11. Transfer ALLOCATION <--
17 Section 1101. Fund ALLOCATION OF FUNDS. <--
18 Chapter 13. Miscellaneous Provisions

1 Section 1301. Effective date.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 CHAPTER 1
5 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

6 Section 101. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Adult
8 Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program Act.

9 Section 102. Definitions.

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

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

16 (1) A school district.

17 (2) An intermediate unit.

18 (3) An area career and technical school.

19 (4) A community college.

20 (5) A literacy council.

21 (6) A local library.

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

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

29 (9) An education entity recognized by the Secretary of
30 Education for providing appropriate and effective education

1 exclusively to adult populations.

2 "Department." The Department of Education of the
3 Commonwealth.

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

6 (1) is basic skills deficient;

7 (2) does not have a secondary school diploma or its
8 recognized equivalent and has not achieved an equivalent
9 level of education;

10 (3) is an English language learner; or

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

13 ~~"Fund." The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant~~ <--
14 ~~Program Fund established under section 1101(a).~~

15 "Grant." A grant issued by the department under this act.

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

21 "Program." The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant
22 Program established under section 301(a).

23 CHAPTER 3

24 ADULT EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE RECOVERY

25 GRANT PROGRAM

26 Section 301. Establishment.

27 (a) General rule.--The Adult Education and Workforce
28 Recovery Grant Program is established in the department. The
29 program shall provide grants as provided in this act TO THE <--
30 EXTENT THAT MONEY IS APPROPRIATED OR OTHERWISE MADE AVAILABLE TO

1 THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAKING GRANTS.

2 (b) Administration.--The department shall make competitive
3 grants available to adult education providers for the following
4 purposes:

5 (1) Upskilling working-age adults.

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

8 (3) Providing technical training or job training
9 necessary to secure employment to participants coenrolled in
10 adult basic education or transitioning directly from adult
11 basic education.

12 (4) Providing tuition assistance for grant participants
13 coenrolled in adult basic education or transitioning directly
14 from adult basic education.

15 (5) Providing digital literacy training.

16 (6) Providing career services, including career
17 exploration, planning and support identifying and evaluating
18 education and job training programs.

19 Section 302. Grants.

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

22 (b) Guidelines.--The department shall develop guidelines
23 that specify the requirements for grants. The guidelines shall
24 include:

25 (1) The grant application process.

26 (2) Allowed and disallowed expenses.

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

29 (c) Awards.--

30 (1) The department may not award a grant in excess of

1 \$500,000 to a qualified applicant.

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

5 Section 303. Procedure for grant issuance.

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

8 (b) Application requirements.--A completed application must
9 describe the proposed grant activities in the form and manner
10 prescribed by the department. An application must include all of
11 the following:

12 (1) A description of the programming and services the
13 adult education provider will offer in support of one or more
14 of the purposes outlined in section 301(b).

15 (2) A description of the manner in which the adult
16 education provider will meet the guidelines under section
17 302(b).

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

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

23 (5) A description of strategies to recruit eligible
24 program participants.

25 (6) Information on industry-recognized credentials or
26 certifications awarded to program participants upon
27 completion of an education or job training.

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

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

1 (c) Approval process.--The department shall review and
2 approve grant applications that, in the sole discretion of the
3 department, satisfy the requirements of this act.

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

10 CHAPTER 9

11 REPORTING

12 Section 901. Annual report.

13 Not later than September 1 of each year after grants are
14 awarded, the department shall submit a report regarding the
15 implementation and outcomes of grants over the previous fiscal
16 year to the following:

17 (1) The Governor.

18 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
19 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

20 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
21 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

22 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
23 Education Committee of the Senate.

24 (5) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
25 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

26 Section 902. Report contents.

27 In addition to information or analysis required by the
28 department, the annual report under section 901 shall include
29 information about each grant awarded, including:

30 (1) If the grant achieved the clear objectives and

1 measurable goals proposed under section 303(b) (8).

2 (2) The number of eligible program participants.

3 (3) The amount expended.

4 CHAPTER 11

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5 TRANSFER

6 ~~Section 1101. Fund.~~

7 ~~(a) Establishment. The Adult Education and Workforce~~
8 ~~Recovery Grant Program Fund is established within the State~~
9 ~~Treasury.~~

10 ~~(b) Source of fund.~~

11 ~~(1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of~~
12 ~~\$15,000,000 shall be transferred from the General Fund to the~~
13 ~~fund and, subject to payment of administrative costs as~~
14 ~~provided in paragraph (3), shall be allocated as follows:~~

15 ~~(i) Eighty percent of the remaining money in the~~
16 ~~fund shall be used to provide grants to the entities~~
17 ~~described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7)~~
18 ~~and (8) of the definition of "adult education provider"~~
19 ~~in section 102.~~

20 ~~(ii) Twenty percent of the remaining money in the~~
21 ~~fund shall be used to provide grants to entities~~
22 ~~described in paragraph (9) of the definition of "adult~~
23 ~~education provider" in section 102 for programs that~~
24 ~~serve adult learners who hold a secondary diploma or its~~
25 ~~recognized equivalent and need additional training to~~
26 ~~reenter the workforce.~~

27 ~~(2) The department may reallocate between the grants~~
28 ~~specified in paragraph (1) (i) and (ii) any unspent money~~
29 ~~resulting from insufficient applicants following the initial~~
30 ~~grant application period.~~

