

ASSEMBLY, No. 3957

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 1, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Makes FY 2020 supplemental Grants-in-Aid appropriation of \$10 million to DCA for NJSHARES - S.M.A.R.T. Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/28/2020)

1 **A SUPPLEMENT** to "An Act making appropriations for the support
2 of the State Government and the several public purposes for the
3 fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and regulating the disbursement
4 thereof," approved June 30, 2019 (P.L.2019, c.150).

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and the General Assembly of the
7 State of New Jersey:

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9 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2019,
10 c.150, there is appropriated out of the General Fund the following
11 sum for the purpose specified:
12

22 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

50 Economic Planning, Development, and Security

55 Social Services Programs

Grants-in-Aid

05-8050 Community Resources	\$10,000,000
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Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation,	
Social Services Programs	\$10,000,000
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Grants-in-Aid:

05 NJSHARES - S.M.A.R.T. Program (\$10,000,000)

13
14 The amounts hereinabove appropriated for the NJSHARES -
15 S.M.A.R.T. Program shall be awarded by the Commissioner of
16 Community Affairs to homeowners and tenants of residential
17 property throughout the State who suffered financial loss during
18 the pendency of the Governor’s declaration of a Public Health
19 Emergency under the “Emergency Health Powers Act,”
20 P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), and of a State of Emergency
21 under P.L.1942, c. 251 (C.App.A.9-33 et seq.), in relation to the
22 coronavirus disease 2019. Of the amounts appropriated herein,
23 \$5 million shall be appropriated from the Affordable Housing
24 Trust Fund for rent and mortgage assistance and \$5 million shall
25 be appropriated from the Universal Service Fund for utility
26 payment assistance. The Commissioner of Community Affairs
27 shall design and establish program criteria and guidelines
28 consistent with this act which the Commissioner of Community
29 Affairs deems necessary and appropriate to award grants to
30 eligible homeowners and tenants in an expeditious manner so to
31 enable eligible homeowners and tenants to comply with their
32 rent, mortgage, and utilities obligations. The Commissioner of
33 Community Affairs may implement this program through the
34 award of contracts, or through the delegation of its authority to
35 award grants, to private nonprofit organizations, public agencies,
36 or both. To be eligible for a grant under this program, a
37 homeowner or tenant shall not be eligible for, or a recipient of

1 funding from, private insurance or from any other available
2 funding opportunity which may be considered a duplication of
3 benefits.

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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10 This bill makes a FY 2020 supplemental Grants-in-Aid
11 appropriation of \$10,000,000 to the Department of Community
12 Affairs (DCA) to the NJSHARES - S.M.A.R.T. Program to fund
13 financial assistance grants to New Jersey residents who suffered
14 financial losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill provides
15 that \$5 million would be appropriated from the Affordable Housing
16 Trust Fund for rent and mortgage assistance and \$5 million would
17 be appropriated from the Universal Service Fund for utility payment
18 assistance. The bill directs the commissioner to design and establish
19 program criteria and guidelines consistent with the bill in order to
20 award grants to eligible homeowners and tenants in an expeditious
21 manner so to enable them to comply with their rent, mortgage, and
22 utilities obligations.

23 The bill directs the Commissioner of Community Affairs to
24 award grants to homeowners and to residential tenants who suffered
25 financial loss during the declaration of a Public Health Emergency
26 and of a State of Emergency due to the coronavirus disease 2019.
27 To be eligible for a grant under this program a homeowner or tenant
28 may not be eligible for, or a recipient of funding from, private
29 insurance or from any other available funding opportunity.

30 The bill authorizes the commissioner to implement this program
31 through the award of contracts, or through the delegation of its
32 authority to award grants, to private nonprofit organizations, public
33 agencies, or both.