

ASSEMBLY, No. 4314

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes COVID-19 Survivors Grant Program and appropriates \$5 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the COVID-19 Survivors Grant Program and
2 making a \$5 million appropriation.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Human Services.

9 “COVID-19” means the coronavirus disease 2019, which is a
10 highly infectious disease that causes respiratory illness.

11 “COVID-19 crisis” means the duration of the public health
12 emergency and state of emergency, as declared by the Governor in
13 Executive Order 103 of 2020.

14 “Department” means the Department of Human Services.

15
16 2. a. The department shall establish a temporary program
17 known as the “COVID-19 Survivors Grant Program.” The grant
18 program shall provide for a one-time financial assistance relief
19 grant to the surviving family of an individual that has died from
20 COVID-19 from the “COVID-19 Survivors Grant Fund,”
21 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
22 before the Legislature as this bill). The purpose of the program
23 shall be to provide financial assistance relief to a family that has
24 suffered the loss of an immediate family member due to the
25 COVID-19 crisis.

26 b. Within 60 days following the effective date of P.L. ,
27 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
28 commissioner shall implement the program, which shall include
29 but not be limited to. establishing the application process,
30 determining the required documentation to be considered a qualified
31 applicant, and establishing a maximum amount of assistance per
32 applicant.

33 To be qualified, the applicant shall be a New Jersey resident
34 whose immediate family member has died due to COVID-19.

35 c. The application shall be submitted to the department, and
36 upon approval, the department shall issue the grant, provided that
37 there are available funds for such purposes in the “COVID-19
38 Survivors Grant Program.”

39 d. The commissioner shall be responsible for determining
40 whether any person seeking to be considered a qualified applicant
41 under this section, for the purpose of receiving a grant, meets the
42 eligibility requirements.

43 e. The commissioner shall identify amounts of federal
44 government assistance provided to this State for COVID-19
45 emergency relief, which can be allocated to this grant fund.

46
47 3. a. There is established in the department the “COVID-19
48 Survivors Grant Program” a nonlapsing, revolving fund to carry out
49 the provisions of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before

1 the Legislature as this bill). The department shall administer the
2 fund.

3 b. There is appropriated to the department the sum of \$5
4 million to be credited to the “COVID-19 Survivors Grant Fund” to
5 effectuate the provisions of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
6 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The amounts
7 appropriated herein shall be funded first from assistance provided
8 from the federal government to the extent not prohibited by federal
9 law. The remaining amounts necessary to fund this program are
10 appropriated from the General Fund.

11 c. In the event a person or entity wishes to make a monetary
12 donation to the State for the “COVID-19 Survivors Grant Fund,”
13 the commissioner is hereby authorized to accept such monetary
14 donations.

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16 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire one
17 year following the rescission of Executive Order No. 103 of 2020
18 by the Governor.

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STATEMENT

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23 This bill appropriates \$5 million and establishes in the
24 Department of Human Services a temporary grant fund to be known
25 as the “COVID-19 Survivors Grant Program.” The purpose of the
26 grant fund is to provide financial assistance relief to a family that
27 has suffered the loss of an immediate family member due to the
28 COVID-19 crisis.

29 Under this bill, the Department of Human Services will
30 administer the application process for the grant fund. The
31 Commissioner of Human Services will establish the application
32 process, determining the required documentation to be considered a
33 qualified applicant, and establish a maximum amount of assistance
34 per applicant. To be qualified, the applicant is required to be a New
35 Jersey resident whose immediate family member has died due to
36 COVID-19. The commissioner will also identify amounts of federal
37 government assistance provided to this State for COVID-19
38 emergency relief, which can be allocated to this grant fund.

39 The bill specifies that the \$5 million being credited to the
40 “COVID-19 Survivors Grant Program” will first be funded using
41 any available federal assistance given to the State and that the
42 remaining amounts necessary to fund this program are appropriated
43 from the General Fund. The department will administer the funds.
44 In the event a person or entity wishes to make a monetary donation
45 to the State for this program, the commissioner is authorized to
46 accept such monetary donations.