

ASSEMBLY, No. 4969

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Benson

SYNOPSIS

Establishes COVID-19 Local Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program in DHS; appropriates \$4 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/17/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing the COVID-19 Local Food Pantry Assistance
2 Grant Program in the Department of Human Services and making
3 an appropriation.
4

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

8 1. a. There is hereby established in the Department of Human
9 Services the COVID-19 Local Food Pantry Assistance Grant
10 Program. The program shall award grants to local food pantries in
11 order to provide residents who have been financially affected by the
12 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak with food supply
13 assistance.

14 b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall develop an
15 application by which a local food pantry may apply for a grant for
16 funding, and criteria by which to rank the applications received by
17 the department. The commissioner shall provide notice of the
18 availability of funding for this program and make the application
19 available on the department's Internet website.

20 c. A grant awarded pursuant to this section shall be in an
21 amount not to exceed \$40,000.

22 d. As used in this section:

23 "Local food pantry" means a food bank, food pantry, soup
24 kitchen, or other nonprofit organization that distributes food to
25 individuals in need of assistance, but shall not include a "food
26 bank" as that term is defined in section 2 of P.L.1982, c.178
27 (C.24:4A-2).

28 "Nonprofit organization" means an organization incorporated
29 under the provisions of Title 15 or Title 16 of the Revised Statutes
30 of New Jersey, an organization exempt from taxation under section
31 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or an entity to which a
32 charitable contribution as defined under subsection (c) of section
33 170 of the Internal Revenue Code is deductible under section 170.
34

35 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
36 Department of Human Services the sum of \$4 million from a
37 portion of those federal block grant funds allocated to the State
38 from the federal "Coronavirus Relief Fund," established pursuant to
39 the federal "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,"
40 Pub.L.116-136, for use by the department to provide grants
41 pursuant to this act.
42

43 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
44 the distribution of the moneys appropriated by this act.

1 STATEMENT

2
3 This bill would direct the Department of Human Services (DHS)
4 to establish a grant program to distribute \$4 million in moneys
5 received from the federal government pursuant to the “Coronavirus
6 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,” Pub.L.116-136 (CARES
7 act), to local food pantries in order to help people whose incomes
8 have decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants would
9 be limited to \$40,000 each. Food banks, food pantries, soup
10 kitchens, and other nonprofit organizations that distribute food
11 directly to individuals would be eligible to apply for a grant, but
12 larger food banks that store and supply food to other nonprofits for
13 distribution would not be eligible. Under the bill, the grant program
14 would expire once the \$4 million in CARES act funding
15 appropriated by the bill is awarded.