

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5502

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Verrelli and Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes grant program in DCA to provide funding to youth mentoring programs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/22/2021)**

1 AN ACT establishing a grant program for certain mentoring  
2 programs and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. As used in this act. "mentoring services" means a  
8 program administered by a duly incorporated non-profit  
9 organization in which persons provide advice, support, opinion or  
10 instruction to persons 21 years of age or younger in an effort to  
11 direct that person's judgment or conduct in a positive manner.

12 b. The Commissioner of Community Affairs, in consultation  
13 with the Attorney General, shall establish a program to provide  
14 grants to organizations which provide mentoring services as defined  
15 in this section. The grant program shall be administered by the  
16 commissioner. Preference shall be given to those programs which  
17 provide youth with alternatives to membership in or association  
18 with criminal street gangs.

19 c. An organization which elects to participate in the grant  
20 program shall submit an application to the commissioner in such  
21 form as prescribed by the commissioner. The application shall  
22 outline the applicant's program or program proposal, sample  
23 activities, social service offerings, existing funds and the amount of  
24 the grant request.

25 d. Based upon the application, and subject to the availability of  
26 funds, the commissioner shall award a grant to each approved grant  
27 applicant to assist in establishing or maintaining the mentoring  
28 program. The commissioner, to the extent possible, shall equitably  
29 distribute grant awards to successful applicants in northern, central  
30 and southern counties of the State, and shall include programs in  
31 urban, suburban and rural areas.

32 e. Any mentoring organization that is awarded a grant shall  
33 report on an annual basis to the commissioner on the status of its  
34 program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, information  
35 on number of participants, the hours of program operation, regular  
36 program activities, and the number and qualifications of program  
37 staff, including volunteers. The report shall be used by the  
38 commissioner to evaluate future grant applications.

39 f. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
40 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) the commissioner may  
41 promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the  
42 provisions of this act.

43

44 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month  
45 after enactment, but subsection f. of section 1 shall take effect  
46 immediately.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 This bill requires the Commissioner of Community Affairs, in  
4 consultation with the Attorney General, to establish a program to  
5 provide grants to organizations which provide mentoring. The grant  
6 program is to be administered by the commissioner. Preference  
7 would be given to those programs which provide youth with  
8 alternatives to membership in or association with criminal street  
9 gangs.

10 The commissioner, to the extent possible, is to equitably  
11 distribute grant awards to successful applicants in northern, central  
12 and southern counties of the State, and to include programs in  
13 urban, suburban and rural areas.

14 Any mentoring organization that is awarded a grant is required to  
15 report on an annual basis to the commissioner the status of its  
16 program. The report is to include, but not be limited to, information  
17 on the number of participants, the hours of program operation,  
18 regular program activities, and the number and qualifications of  
19 program staff, including volunteers. These reports would be used  
20 by the commissioner to evaluate future grant applications.