

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1528 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY MADDEN, MENTZER, CERRATO, M. BROWN, HILL-EVANS,
WAXMAN, PICKETT, T. DAVIS, MAYES, PROBST, MERSKI, SANCHEZ,
BOROWSKI, KUZMA, WARREN, K. HARRIS, D. WILLIAMS, CEPEDA-
FREYTIZ, RIVERA, O'MARA, HADDOCK, GIRAL, HANBIDGE, INGLIS,
RADER, JAMES, PIELLI, SHUSTerman, HEFFLEY, FREEMAN, PARKER,
PUGH, ARMANINI, GREEN, SCOTT, FLICK, SAMUELSON, KHAN AND
BRENNAN, MAY 30, 2025

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Grand-family Assistance Program; providing for
2 grants PAYMENTS to area agencies on aging; and imposing
3 powers and duties on the Department of Aging.; AND
4 ESTABLISHING THE GRAND-FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND. <--
<--

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Grand-family
9 Assistance Program Act.

10 Section 2. Legislative intent.

11 The intent of this act is to establish a grant system for <--
12 PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES EMERGENCY, ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE <--
13 TO an individual who is a qualified grandparent, resides in this
14 Commonwealth and serves as the primary caregiver for the
15 individual's grandchild while the child's parent actively
16 participates in an opioid use disorder treatment program. IT IS <--

1 ALSO THE INTENT OF THIS ACT TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS IN RECOVERY
2 FROM OPIOID USE DISORDER AND ANY CO-OCCURRING SUBSTANCE USE
3 DISORDER OR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION BY PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE
4 WRAP-AROUND SERVICES TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING CHILD CARE.

5 Section 3. Definitions.

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

9 "APPLICATION." AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT <--
10 UNDER SECTION 5 BY AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING SEEKING PAYMENTS
11 UNDER THIS ACT ON BEHALF OF GRAND-FAMILIES.

12 "Area agency on aging." An agency designated by the
13 department to administer and develop an area plan for a
14 comprehensive and coordinated system of services for older
15 people within the boundaries of a defined planning and service
16 area.

17 "Department." The Department of Aging of the Commonwealth.

18 "~~Grand family.~~" ~~A family where an individual is a~~ <--
19 ~~grandparent acting as the primary caregiver for the individual's~~
20 ~~grandchild whose parents cannot provide care due to an opioid~~
21 ~~use disorder.~~

22 "ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL." AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SATISFIES ALL OF <--
23 THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

24 (1) THE INDIVIDUAL IS 40 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND
25 RESIDES WITH A CHILD WHO IS YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE.

26 (2) THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE GRANDPARENT OR STEP-
27 GRANDPARENT OF THE CHILD.

28 (3) THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER OF THE CHILD
29 BECAUSE THE BIOLOGICAL OR ADOPTIVE PARENTS ARE UNABLE OR
30 UNWILLING TO ACT AS THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER OF THE CHILD.

1 (4) THE INDIVIDUAL HAS A LEGAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE
2 CHILD, INCLUDING LEGAL CUSTODY, ADOPTION OR GUARDIANSHIP OF
3 THE CHILD, OR IS CARING FOR THE CHILD IN AN INFORMAL MANNER.
4 "GRAND-FAMILY." THE HOUSEHOLD FORMED BY AN ELIGIBLE
5 INDIVIDUAL AND THE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL'S GRANDCHILD WHO RESIDES
6 WITH THE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL AND FOR WHOM THE ELIGIBLE
7 INDIVIDUAL IS THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER.

8 "Opioid use disorder treatment program." A ~~program~~ FACILITY <--
9 licensed and approved by the Department of Drug and Alcohol
10 Programs to address an individual's problematic pattern of
11 opioid use leading to clinically significant impairment or
12 distress.

13 "Program." The Grand-family Assistance Program established
14 under section 4 4(A) .

15 Section 4. Grand family Assistance Program.

16 The Grand family Assistance Program is established in the
17 department. The program shall provide one time grants to area
18 agencies on aging that must use the grant money to provide
19 financial assistance to grand families for the reimbursement of
20 eligible expenses.

21 Section 5. Grant applications.

22 Grant application forms shall be developed by the department
23 and distributed to all area agencies on aging. An area agency on
24 aging shall assist persons in the area that intend to apply for
25 a grant under this act in completing the applications and
26 verify, in writing, on the grant application that the
27 application complies with all the requirements of section 6. The
28 area agency on aging shall then forward the application to the
29 department for review and, if appropriate, approval.

~~30 Section 6. Grant requirements.~~

1 (a) ~~Eligibility.~~ From money appropriated to the department
2 for the purpose of the program, the department shall approve
3 grants to local area agencies on aging for grand families that
4 are eligible to receive financial assistance for the
5 reimbursement of expenses directly related to the care of a
6 grandchild whose parent is actively participating in an opioid
7 use disorder treatment program. The grand family may not be
8 reimbursed for any expense that is otherwise reimbursed,
9 including payments received from the parent or an agency of the
10 Federal, State or county government.

11 (b) ~~Funding from Opioid Settlement Restricted Account.~~

12 (1) ~~In addition to any money appropriated from another~~
13 ~~fund or account to the department for the purpose of the~~
14 ~~program, money appropriated from the Opioid Settlement~~
15 ~~Restricted Account for costs associated with opioid~~
16 ~~remediation may be used to make grants under this act.~~

17 (2) ~~The department shall ensure that the amounts~~
18 ~~allocated for the program comply with the restrictions on the~~
19 ~~use of the money in the Opioid Settlement Restricted Account.~~

20 ~~Section 7. Powers and duties of department.~~

21 ~~The powers and duties of the department shall be:~~

22 (1) ~~To accept grants from the Federal Government and any~~
23 ~~other individual, agency or government for use in the~~
24 ~~program.~~

25 (2) ~~To promulgate such rules, regulations and directives~~
26 ~~as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this~~
27 ~~act.~~

28 (3) ~~To annually provide to the chair and minority chair~~
29 ~~of the Aging and Youth Committee of the Senate and the chair~~
30 ~~and minority chair of the Aging and Older Adult Services~~

1 Committee of the House of Representatives the following
2 information:

3 (i) a list of area agencies on aging that applied
4 for a grant;

5 (ii) a list of area agencies on aging that received
6 a grant;

7 (iii) the total funds allocated in the program for
8 that year; and

9 (iv) the total funds expended by the area agencies
10 on aging for the program for that year.

11 SECTION 4. GRAND-FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. <--

12 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE GRAND-FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS
13 ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING, THE
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE PAYMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) TO AREA
15 AGENCIES ON AGING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT, WHICH SHALL BE
16 USED SOLELY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GRAND-FAMILIES
17 FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES UNDER SECTION 7.

18 (B) USE OF PROGRAM PAYMENTS.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
19 DISTRIBUTE PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO AREA AGENCIES ON AGING IN
20 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT. AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING SHALL USE THE
21 PAYMENT RECEIVED UNDER THE PROGRAM ONLY TO REIMBURSE GRAND-
22 FAMILIES FOR ELIGIBLE EXPENSES UNDER SECTION 7.

23 (C) MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT.--A GRAND-FAMILY MAY RECEIVE A
24 ONE-TIME REIMBURSEMENT UNDER SECTION 7 OF UP TO \$1,000 FOR THE
25 FIRST CHILD AND UP TO \$500 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD, NOT TO
26 EXCEED A TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT OF \$2,000.

27 SECTION 5. APPLICATION.

28 (A) PROCESS.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION
29 PROCESS FOR AREA AGENCIES ON AGING TO SEEK PROGRAM PAYMENTS ON
30 BEHALF OF GRAND-FAMILIES.

1 (B) PUBLIC NOTICE.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST APPLICATION
2 INSTRUCTIONS AND MATERIALS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY
3 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

4 (C) SUBMISSION.--AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING MUST SUBMIT AN
5 APPLICATION IN THE FORM AND MANNER DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
6 SECTION 6. APPLICATION DETERMINATIONS.

7 (A) DEPARTMENT DETERMINATION.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE
8 OR DENY AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING'S APPLICATION NO LATER THAN 60
9 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION.

10 (B) DENIAL AND SUPPLEMENTATION.--AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING MAY
11 SUBMIT ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION TO SUPPLEMENT AN
12 APPLICATION DENIED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS
13 AFTER RECEIPT OF THE DENIAL. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE OR
14 DENY THE SUPPLEMENTED APPLICATION NO LATER THAN 45 DAYS AFTER
15 RECEIPT OF THE SUPPLEMENTED APPLICATION.

16 SECTION 7. CONDITIONS FOR REIMBURSEMENT.

17 (A) ELIGIBILITY.--FROM PAYMENTS RECEIVED UNDER THE PROGRAM,
18 AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING SHALL REIMBURSE GRAND-FAMILIES FOR
19 EXPENSES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE CARE OF A GRANDCHILD WHILE A
20 PARENT OF THE GRANDCHILD IS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN AN OPIOID
21 USE DISORDER TREATMENT PROGRAM. A GRAND-FAMILY MAY NOT RECEIVE
22 REIMBURSEMENT FOR AN EXPENSE THAT IS OTHERWISE REIMBURSED,
23 INCLUDING PAYMENTS FROM THE PARENT OR FROM A FEDERAL,
24 COMMONWEALTH OR COUNTY AGENCY.

25 (B) INELIGIBILITY.--A GRAND-FAMILY MAY NOT RECEIVE
26 REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS ACT IF THE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL:

27 (1) HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF, OR HAS PLEADED GUILTY OR NOLO
28 CONTENDERE TO, A CRIMINAL OFFENSE INVOLVING ABUSE, NEGLECT,
29 EXPLOITATION OR ABANDONMENT; OR

30 (2) IS NAMED AS THE PERPETRATOR IN A FOUNDED OR

1 INDICATED REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE UNDER 23 P.A.C.S. CH. 63

2 (RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES).

3 (C) INCOME LIMITATION.--AT THE TIME AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL

4 APPLIES FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE GRAND-FAMILY'S

5 ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME MAY NOT EXCEED 250% OF THE FEDERAL

6 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICABLE HOUSEHOLD SIZE, AS

7 PUBLISHED ANNUALLY BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND

8 HUMAN SERVICES.

9 (D) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.--AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING THAT

10 RECEIVES A PAYMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL, UPON REQUEST,

11 PROVIDE DOCUMENTS, RECORDS AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO THE

12 PAYMENT IN THE TIME, MANNER AND FORMAT REQUIRED BY THE

13 DEPARTMENT OR BY A FEDERAL OR COMMONWEALTH AGENCY WITH AUTHORITY

14 TO AUDIT THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING OR THE PAYMENTS.

15 (E) RECORDS AND RECOVERY.--THE DEPARTMENT MAY:

16 (1) MONITOR, INSPECT OR AUDIT THE FINANCIAL, OPERATING

17 AND ACCOUNTING RECORDS OF AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING THAT

18 RECEIVES A PAYMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM AS THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS

19 NECESSARY; OR

20 (2) WITHHOLD, REDUCE OR RECOVER MONEY DISTRIBUTED TO AN

21 AREA AGENCY ON AGING UNDER THE PROGRAM IF THE AREA AGENCY ON

22 AGING DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THIS ACT OR APPLICABLE FEDERAL OR

23 STATE LAW.

24 SECTION 8. DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

25 (A) GUIDELINES.--SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING, THE

26 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DRUG AND

27 ALCOHOL PROGRAMS, SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THE PROGRAM.

28 (B) REPORTING.--NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, AND EACH

29 SEPTEMBER 30 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A REPORT ON

30 THE PROGRAM TO THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE AGING AND

1 YOUTH COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR
2 OF THE AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST THE REPORT ON THE
4 DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE. THE REPORT
5 SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FOR THE PRIOR
6 FISCAL YEAR:

7 (1) THE NUMBER OF PAYMENTS MADE TO AREA AGENCIES ON
8 AGING.

9 (2) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY RECEIVED BY EACH AREA AGENCY ON
10 AGING.

11 (3) THE COUNTY OF OPERATION FOR EACH AREA AGENCY ON
12 AGING THAT RECEIVED FUNDING.

13 (4) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.

14 (5) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS
15 NECESSARY.

16 (C) REGULATIONS.--THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE REGULATIONS
17 AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT.

18 SECTION 9. PROGRAM FUNDING.

19 (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.--THE GRAND-FAMILY ASSISTANCE
20 PROGRAM FUND IS ESTABLISHED IN THE STATE TREASURY TO IMPLEMENT
21 THE PROGRAM.

22 (B) APPROPRIATION.--MONEY IN THE FUND, INCLUDING INTEREST
23 AND OTHER EARNINGS, IS APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT ON A
24 CONTINUING BASIS FOR PAYMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM. MONEY IN THE
25 FUND SHALL NOT LAPSE AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR.

26 (C) SOURCES.--THE DEPARTMENT MAY SOLICIT AND ACCEPT MONEY
27 FOR THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING APPROPRIATIONS BY THE GENERAL
28 ASSEMBLY, FEDERAL MONEY, GRANTS, DONATIONS, GIFTS AND OTHER
29 PAYMENTS FROM ANY SOURCE. ALL MONEY RECEIVED SHALL BE DEPOSITED
30 INTO THE FUND.

1 (D) OPIOID SETTLEMENT RESTRICTED ACCOUNT.--

2 (1) MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FROM THE OPIOID
3 SETTLEMENT RESTRICTED ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 1792-
4 A.1(A) OF THE ACT OF APRIL 9, 1929 (P.L.343, NO.176), KNOWN
5 AS THE FISCAL CODE, MAY BE USED TO MAKE PAYMENTS UNDER THE
6 PROGRAM.

7 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT MONEY USED UNDER
8 PARAGRAPH (1) COMPLIES WITH THE RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING THE
9 USE OF MONEY IN THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT RESTRICTED ACCOUNT.

10 (E) COUNTY PARTICIPATION.--NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL BE
11 CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE A COUNTY TO USE THE COUNTY'S OPIOID
12 SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

13 Section & 10. Effective date. <--

14 This act shall take effect in ~~60~~ 90 days. <--