

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,
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FREYTIZ, RIVERA, O'MARA, HADDOCK, GIRAL, HANBIDGE, INGLIS,
RADER, JAMES, PIELLI, SHUSTERMAN, HEFFLEY AND FREEMAN,
MAY 30, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,
MAY 30, 2025

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Grand-family Assistance Program; providing for
2 grants to area agencies on aging; and imposing powers and
3 duties on the Department of Aging.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

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

9 Section 2. Legislative intent.

10 The intent of this act is to establish a grant system for an
11 individual who is a qualified grandparent, resides in this
12 Commonwealth and serves as the primary caregiver for the
13 individual's grandchild while the child's parent actively
14 participates in an opioid use disorder treatment program.

15 Section 3. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Area agency on aging." An agency designated by the
4 department to administer and develop an area plan for a
5 comprehensive and coordinated system of services for older
6 people within the boundaries of a defined planning and service
7 area.

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

9 "Grand-family." A family where an individual is a
10 grandparent acting as the primary caregiver for the individual's
11 grandchild whose parents cannot provide care due to an opioid
12 use disorder.

13 "Opioid use disorder treatment program." A program licensed
14 and approved by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to
15 address an individual's problematic pattern of opioid use
16 leading to clinically significant impairment or distress.

17 "Program." The Grand-family Assistance Program established
18 under section 4.

19 Section 4. Grand-family Assistance Program.

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

25 Section 5. Grant applications.

26 Grant application forms shall be developed by the department
27 and distributed to all area agencies on aging. An area agency on
28 aging shall assist persons in the area that intend to apply for
29 a grant under this act in completing the applications and
30 verify, in writing, on the grant application that the

1 application complies with all the requirements of section 6. The
2 area agency on aging shall then forward the application to the
3 department for review and, if appropriate, approval.

4 Section 6. Grant requirements.

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

15 (b) Funding from Opioid Settlement Restricted Account.--

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

21 (2) The department shall ensure that the amounts
22 allocated for the program comply with the restrictions on the
23 use of the money in the Opioid Settlement Restricted Account.

24 Section 7. Powers and duties of department.

25 The powers and duties of the department shall be:

26 (1) To accept grants from the Federal Government and any
27 other individual, agency or government for use in the
28 program.

29 (2) To promulgate such rules, regulations and directives
30 as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this

1 act.

2 (3) To annually provide to the chair and minority chair
3 of the Aging and Youth Committee of the Senate and the chair
4 and minority chair of the Aging and Older Adult Services
5 Committee of the House of Representatives the following
6 information:

7 (i) a list of area agencies on aging that applied
8 for a grant;

9 (ii) a list of area agencies on aging that received
10 a grant;

11 (iii) the total funds allocated in the program for
12 that year; and

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

15 Section 8. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect in 60 days.