

ASSEMBLY, No. 5709

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Zwicker, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Mukherji, Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblymen Auth, Mazzeo, Johnson, Freiman, McKeon, Assemblywomen DeFuccio, Downey, Senators Beach, Brown, Codey, Cruz-Perez, Cryan, Cunningham, Diegnan, Gill, Greenstein, Madden, Oroho, Pou, Rice, Ruiz, Sacco, Sarlo, Scutari, Singleton, B.Smith, Stack, Sweeney, Testa, Turner, Vitale and Weinberg

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates \$10 million from General Fund to EDA to support Sustain and Serve NJ Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2021)

1 A SUPPLEMENT to the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations act,
2 P.L.2020, c.97.

3

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

6

7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2020, c.97,
8 the annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2021, there is
9 appropriated the following sum for the purpose specified:
10

82 DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

50 Economic Planning, Development, and Security

51 Economic Planning and Development

GRANTS-IN-AID

38-2043	Economic Development	\$10,000,000
	Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation, Economic Planning and Development	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

Grants-in-Aid:

38 Sustain and Serve NJ Program,
EDA..... (\$10,000,000)

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12 The amount hereinabove appropriated for the Sustain and Serve NJ
13 Program, EDA, shall be allocated to the New Jersey Economic
14 Development Authority to support the Sustain and Serve NJ
15 Program. The authority may transfer the uncommitted balance
16 of any funds hereinabove appropriated for the Sustain and Serve
17 NJ Program, EDA, for the purposes of any program established
18 pursuant to P.L.2021, c.42, P.L.2021, c.43, P.L.2021, c.45,
19 P.L.2020, c.46, or P.L.2021, c.47, as well as the Startup Business
20 and Nonprofit Assistance Program, established pursuant to
21 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill
22 No. 5708 of 2021 and Senate Bill No. 3795 of 2021); provided,
23 however, that the authority shall submit notice to the Joint
24 Budget Oversight Committee no less than five calendar days
25 before the date of the transfer. At a minimum, the notice shall
26 indicate the amount of and purpose for the transferred funds.

27

28 The amount hereinabove appropriated for the Sustain and Serve NJ
29 Program, EDA, is conditioned upon the submission of a report
30 by the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Economic
31 Development Authority to the Governor and the Legislature,
32 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), detailing
33 the expenditure of program funds. At a minimum, the report
34 shall indicate the number of organizations that applied for
35 financial assistance; the number of organizations that received
36 financial assistance; the amount of financial assistance provided
37 to each recipient; and a brief description of each recipient.

1 Of the amounts appropriated to the New Jersey Economic
2 Development Authority for Assistance to Food and Beverage
3 Establishments, Assistance to Businesses and Nonprofits,
4 Assistance to Child Care Providers, Assistance to
5 Microbusinesses, the Sustain and Serve NJ Program, and the
6 Startup Business and Nonprofit Assistance Program, the
7 authority may retain not more than \$1,000,000 to defray
8 administrative expenses.

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10 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund to the
16 New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) to support the
17 Sustain and Serve NJ Program.

18 In November 2020, the EDA established the Sustain and Serve
19 NJ Program. Under the program, the EDA provides grants to
20 organizations to support the bulk purchase of meals from local
21 restaurants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Participating
22 organizations are then required to distribute the meals, free of
23 charge, to State residents. As such, the program is designed to
24 support local restaurants, while also providing free meals for the
25 public.

26 In February 2021, the EDA announced that \$14 million in grants
27 were expected to be awarded through the Sustain and Serve NJ
28 Program. According to the EDA, this funding is expected to result
29 in the purchase of approximately 1.5 million meals. By
30 appropriating an additional \$10 million for the program, roughly
31 one million more meals will be purchased from local restaurants
32 and distributed to needy populations.

33 Additionally, the bill allows the EDA to transfer uncommitted
34 funds to other programs administered by the authority to address the
35 impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill also allows a portion
36 of these funds to be used for administrative expenses.

37 As a condition of receiving State funds, the bill also requires the
38 EDA to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature
39 detailing the expenditure of program funds. At a minimum, the
40 report would be required to indicate the number of organizations
41 that applied for financial assistance; the number of organizations
42 that received financial assistance; the amount of financial assistance
43 provided to each recipient; and a brief description of each recipient.