

**SENATE, No. 3160**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**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: 11/16/2020)**

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.

STATEMENT

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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.