

1 Introduced by Committee on Appropriations

2 Date:

3 Subject: Appropriations; economic development; Coronavirus Relief
4 Assistance Program for Immigrants

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
6 Coronavirus Relief Assistance Program for Immigrants.

7 An act relating to the Coronavirus Relief Assistance Program for
8 Immigrants

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. CORONAVIRUS RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR
11 IMMIGRANTS

12 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

13 (1) “CARES Act” means the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
14 Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116–136.

15 (2) “Eligible adult” means any individual who is a resident of Vermont
16 and who is ineligible to receive economic impact payments under the CARES
17 Act due to immigration status.

18 (3) “Eligible child” means an individual under 18 years of age for whom
19 an eligible adult is a parent or legal guardian.

20 (4) “Personally identifiable information” means an individual’s:

21 (A) name;

1 (B) address;

2 (C) date of birth;

3 (D) place of birth;

4 (E) immigration status;

5 (F) unique biometric data generated from measurements or technical
6 analysis of human body characteristics used to identify or authenticate the
7 individual, such as a fingerprint, retina or iris image, or other unique physical
8 representation or digital representation of biometric data;

9 (G) name or address of a member of the individual’s immediate
10 family or household;

11 (H) Social Security number or other government-issued identification
12 number; or

13 (I) other information that, either alone or in combination with the
14 information listed in subdivisions (A)–(H) of this subdivision (4), would allow
15 a reasonable person to identify the individual with reasonable certainty.

16 (5) “Resident of Vermont” means any individual living in Vermont who
17 intends to make the State his or her principal place of domicile either
18 permanently or for an indefinite number of years. Individuals who live in the
19 State for a particular purpose involving a defined period of time, including
20 students, migrant workers employed in seasonal occupations, and individuals
21 employed under a contract with a fixed term, are not residents for purposes of
22 this section.

1 (b) Establishment of Program; eligibility; maximum award.

2 (1) A Coronavirus Relief Assistance Program for Immigrants is
3 established at the Agency of Human Services to award direct relief grant
4 payments to eligible adults and eligible children.

5 (2) In order to receive payment under the Program, an eligible adult
6 shall certify that he or she:

7 (A) is a resident of Vermont; and

8 (B) is ineligible to receive an economic impact payment under the
9 CARES Act due to reasons of immigration status.

10 (3) Each eligible adult shall receive \$1,200.00 and \$500.00 for each
11 eligible child, provided that an eligible adult shall not receive an award for an
12 eligible child if another applicant received an award for that child.

13 (c) Administration of Program.

14 (1) The Program shall be administered by the Agency of Human
15 Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Racial Equity. The
16 Agency of Human Services shall partner with public or private entities as
17 needed to conduct outreach, provide application assistance, process grant
18 applications, or deliver assistance payments to eligible individuals.

19 (2) The Agency shall adopt requirements, guidelines, or procedures as
20 necessary to implement and administer the Program. The Agency shall not be
21 required to initiate rulemaking pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 831(c) in relation to any

1 requirement, guideline, or procedure that is adopted or issued in relation to the
2 Program.

3 (3) The Agency may utilize staff and resources from any State agency or
4 department as necessary to administer the Program and may partner with any
5 nongovernmental entity to promote or implement the Program.

6 (d) Contract for implementation.

7 (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Agency
8 may enter into contracts with any nongovernmental entity to implement and
9 administer the Program without the need to competitively bid such contracts.

10 For the purposes of the Program, the public health risk posed by COVID-19
11 shall be deemed to be an emergency situation that justifies the execution of
12 sole source contracts pursuant to Bulletin 3.5, the State’s Procurement and
13 Contracting Procedures.

14 (2) A contract with an entity that will implement the Program shall, at a
15 minimum, provide that the contracted entity shall issue grant payments to
16 eligible adults pursuant to the provisions of this section and pursuant to the
17 procedures established by the Agency.

18 (e) Confidentiality; personally identifiable information. All personally
19 identifiable information that is collected by the Agency through
20 implementation of the Program, by any entity of State government performing
21 a function of the Program, or by any entity that the Agency contracts with to

1 perform a function of the Program shall be kept confidential and shall be
2 exempt from inspection and copying under the Public Records Act.

3 (f) Protection of personally identifiable information. The Agency shall
4 ensure that any entity of State government performing a function of the
5 Program or any entity that the Agency contracts with to perform a function of
6 the Program:

7 (1) implements appropriate procedures and safeguards to protect any
8 personally identifiable information that it obtains in relation to the Program;

9 (2) shall not disclose an individual's personally identifiable information
10 to another State entity or contractor performing a function of the Program
11 unless that disclosure is necessary for the administration of the Program;

12 (3) complies with the prohibition on disclosure of personally identifiable
13 information under 20 V.S.A. § 4651; and

14 (4) complies with all applicable requirements of 9 V.S.A. chapter 62.

15 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; CORONAVIRUS RELIEF ASSISTANCE

16 PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS

17 The amount of \$X,000,000.00 is appropriated in fiscal year 2021 from the
18 General Fund to the Agency of Human Services for use in fiscal year 2021 for
19 the administration and payment of grants pursuant to the Coronavirus Relief
20 Assistance Program for Immigrants, of which no more than \$50,000.00 shall
21 be used for the administration of the Program.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage.