

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) “Economic Impact Payments” means a recovery rebate for  
16 individuals authorized under section 2201 of the CARES Act as codified in  
17 26 U.S.C. § 6428.

18 (3) “Eligible adult” means any individual who is a current resident of  
19 Vermont, was a resident of Vermont on April 1, 2020, and who was ineligible  
20 to receive economic impact payments under the CARES Act due to  
21 immigration status.

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

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

4           (A) name;

5           (B) address;

6           (C) date of birth;

7           (D) place of birth;

8           (E) immigration status;

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

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

15           (H) Social Security number or other government-issued identification  
16           number; or

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

20           (5) “Resident of Vermont” means any individual living in Vermont who  
21           intends to make the State his or her principal place of domicile either  
22           permanently or for an indefinite number of years. Individuals who live in the

1 State for a particular purpose involving a defined period of time, including  
2 students, migrant workers employed in seasonal occupations, and individuals  
3 employed under a contract with a fixed term, are not residents for purposes of  
4 this section.

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

6 (1) The Agency of Human Services shall establish a Coronavirus Relief  
7 Assistance Program for Immigrants on or before November 15, 2020 to award  
8 direct relief grant payments to eligible adults and eligible children.

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

11 (A) is a resident of Vermont;

12 (B) was ineligible to receive an economic impact payment under the  
13 CARES Act due to reasons of immigration status; and

14 (C) had an adjusted gross income of less than \$99,000.00 in taxable  
15 year 2019 or, if filing jointly, an adjusted gross income of less than  
16 \$198,000.00 in taxable year 2019.

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

20 (4) All applications for a payment under this section shall be submitted  
21 on or before January 15, 2021.

22 (c) Administration of Program.

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

6           (2) The Agency shall adopt requirements, guidelines, or procedures as  
7           necessary to implement and administer the Program. When the Agency adopts  
8           requirements, guidelines, or procedure under this subdivision, it shall consider  
9           how to disperse payments to applicants who lack banking services or a mailing  
10           address to which a payment may be sent. The Agency shall not be required to  
11           initiate rulemaking pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 831(c) in relation to any  
12           requirement, guideline, or procedure that is adopted or issued in relation to the  
13           Program.

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

17           (d) Contract for implementation. Notwithstanding any provision of law to  
18           the contrary, the Agency may enter into contracts, as deemed necessary, with  
19           any nongovernmental entity to implement and administer the Program without  
20           the need to competitively bid such contracts. For the purposes of the Program,  
21           the public health risk posed by COVID-19 shall be deemed to be an emergency

1 situation that justifies the execution of sole source contracts pursuant to  
2 Bulletin 3.5, the State’s Procurement and Contracting Procedures.

3 (e) Confidentiality; personally identifiable information. All personally  
4 identifiable information that is collected by the Agency through  
5 implementation of the Program by any entity of State government performing a  
6 function of the Program or by any entity that the Agency contracts with to  
7 perform a function of the Program shall be kept confidential and shall be  
8 exempt from inspection and copying under the Public Records Act.

9 (f) Protection of personally identifiable information. The Agency shall  
10 ensure that any entity of State government performing a function of the  
11 Program or any entity that the Agency contracts with to perform a function of  
12 the Program:

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

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

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

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

1       Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; CORONAVIRUS RELIEF ASSISTANCE

2                   PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS

3               The amount of \$X,000,000.00 is appropriated in fiscal year 2021 from the  
4               General Fund to the Agency of Human Services for use in fiscal year 2021 for  
5               the administration and payment of grants pursuant to the Coronavirus Relief  
6               Assistance Program for Immigrants, of which not more than \$X0,000.00 shall  
7               be used for the administration of the Program.

8       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9               This act shall take effect on passage.