

First Extraordinary Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

BILLPAPER

LLS NO. 20B-0034.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Story,

House Committees

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE GRANT**
102 **PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**
103 **APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill expands and extends the provisions of the food pantry assistance grant program (grant program) that is currently in law. Current law states that all grants from the grant program must be made on or before December 30, 2020, and allows for grants to food banks and food pantries. The bill extends this date to February 28, 2021, and also allows

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

food delivery organizations to apply for a grant. The bill states that it is the intent of the general assembly that food purchased through an award from the grant program be purchased and distributed on or before June 30, 2021.

Currently, grant awards through the grant program range from \$2,500 to \$35,000. The bill no longer caps the grant awards at \$35,000. The amount a grant recipient may use for direct and indirect costs is increased from 10% to 50%.

The repeal date is extended one year, to June 30, 2023.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Since March 2020, the state of Colorado has been dealing with
5 the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health
6 emergency;

7 (b) The expenditures in the bill are necessary to respond to the
8 COVID-19 public health emergency;

9 (c) The expenditures in the bill were not accounted for in the
10 Colorado state budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, and
11 all of the expenses will be incurred on or before August 2021; and

12 (d) Any state department that receives expenditures in the bill for
13 community programs and services shall:

14 (I) Distribute funding in a manner that utilizes existing
15 infrastructure and contracts in the most expedited way possible; and

16 (II) Consider the needs of underserved populations and
17 communities, including African American communities, indigenous
18 communities, and other communities of people of color.

19 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that:

20 (a) The COVID-19 public health emergency has created an

1 exponential need for emergency food resources for all emergency food
2 providers. The COVID-19 public health emergency has upended many
3 Colorado families' economic security and resulted in hunger insecurity,
4 which has increased by three times the pre-pandemic level. Since the
5 beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency, food pantries
6 across the state have seen two to six times the number of people coming
7 in for food assistance, with many coming to a food pantry for the first
8 time.

9 (b) Funding from this legislation will help more than 150 local
10 food pantries purchase healthy, local food for more than 300,000
11 Coloradans. Funding for these grants provides critical resources for food
12 pantries to meet the increased demand, while also helping to purchase the
13 types of food their communities need from local food producers.

14 (c) Food banks, food pantries, and food delivery organizations
15 need to have additional funding to allow for the increased indirect costs
16 they are facing, such as increased capacity, need for refrigeration,
17 decreased numbers of elderly volunteers, heating for people waiting
18 outside, and increased delivery needs.

19 (3) Therefore, the general assembly determines that funding from
20 this legislation will help people in communities throughout Colorado
21 access nutritious food and support local economies as we enter the
22 years-long economic impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-139, **amend**
24 (1)(b), (2), (3)(b), (4)(a) introductory portion, (4)(b), (4)(c), and (5); and
25 **add** (1)(c.5) as follows:

26 **26-2-139. Food pantry assistance grant program - created -**
27 **timeline and criteria - grants - definitions - repeal.** (1) As used in this

1 section, unless the context otherwise requires:

2 (b) "Eligible entity" means, for the purposes of a food PANTRY
3 ASSISTANCE grant, either a food bank, ~~or~~ food pantry, OR FOOD DELIVERY
4 ORGANIZATION, as defined in this subsection (1). Hunger-relief charitable
5 organizations, as defined in section 39-22-536 (1), are not eligible entities
6 for purposes of this section.

7 (c.5) "FOOD DELIVERY ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL
8 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION WITH A PRIMARY MISSION OF DELIVERING
9 FOOD TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNABLE TO SHOP FOR FOOD ON THEIR
10 OWN.

11 (2) There is created in the state department the food pantry
12 assistance grant program. The purpose of the grant program is to aid
13 Colorado food pantries, ~~and~~ food banks, AND FOOD DELIVERY
14 ORGANIZATIONS in the purchase of foods that better meet the needs of
15 their clientele, which has expanded significantly as a result of the
16 COVID-19 public health emergency. ~~A secondary purpose of the grant~~
17 ~~program is to create new market opportunities for Colorado agricultural~~
18 ~~products and producers~~ IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
19 THAT THE FOOD PURCHASED BY THE GRANT PROGRAM IS DISTRIBUTED ON
20 OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2021.

21 (3) (b) The state department is authorized to use ~~twenty-five~~ FIFTY
22 thousand dollars ~~or up to five percent~~ of the total funds appropriated to
23 the grant program for the direct and indirect costs of administering and
24 monitoring the grant program.

25 (4) (a) On or before December 30, 2020, but as soon as
26 practicable after the effective date of this section, the state department
27 shall award one or more grants OUT OF THE FEDERAL CARES ACT to

1 eligible entities. ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 2021, BUT AS SOON AS
2 PRACTICABLE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE
3 DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD ONE OR MORE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES
4 USING STATE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE GRANT PROGRAM. In
5 awarding grants, the state department shall, at a minimum, consider:

6 (b) ~~(F)~~ Grant awards, INCLUDING THOSE TO JOINT APPLICANTS,
7 must be at least two thousand five hundred dollars; ~~but not more than~~
8 ~~twenty thousand dollars.~~

9 ~~(H) Food pantries and food banks may submit a joint application~~
10 ~~for a grant award. If an application is received from two or more eligible~~
11 ~~entities, the grant award must be at least two thousand five hundred~~
12 ~~dollars but not more than thirty-five thousand dollars.~~

13 (c) (I) IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT food purchased by a
14 grant recipient using grant money ~~must~~ be designated as a Colorado
15 agricultural product.

16 (II) A grant recipient may use up to ~~ten~~ FIFTY percent of its grant
17 award to cover the direct and indirect costs associated with the
18 implementation of its mission, including:

- 19 (A) Transportation;
- 20 (B) EXPANDING CAPACITY;
- 21 (C) EXPANDING staff costs;
- 22 (D) REFRIGERATION; and
- 23 (E) Storage.

24 (III) A grant recipient shall not resell or apply other associated
25 fees to the distribution of products purchased with money made available
26 through a grant.

27 (5) This section is repealed, effective ~~June 30, 2022~~ JUNE 30,

1 2023.

2 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2020-21 state fiscal year,
3 \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services. This
4 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the
5 department may use this appropriation for the food pantry assistance grant
6 program created in section 26-2-139, C.R.S.

7 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.