

**First Extraordinary Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 20B-0034.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 20B-1003**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

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

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**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.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
December 1, 2020

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
November 30, 2020

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.

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

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

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

25 **26-2-139. Food pantry assistance grant program - created -**  
26 **timeline and criteria - grants - definitions - repeal.** (1) As used in this  
27 section, unless the context otherwise requires:

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

5 (II) "ELIGIBLE ENTITY" FOR THE PURPOSES OF A FOOD PANTRY  
6 ASSISTANCE GRANT INCLUDES A FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION.

7  
8 (2) There is created in the state department the food pantry  
9 assistance grant program. The purpose of the grant program is to aid  
10 Colorado food pantries and food banks in the purchase of foods that  
11 better meet the needs of their clientele, which has expanded significantly  
12 as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. ~~A secondary~~  
13 ~~purpose of the grant program is to create new market opportunities for~~  
14 ~~Colorado agricultural products and producers~~ IT IS THE INTENT OF THE  
15 GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT ALL MONEY AWARDED BY THE GRANT PROGRAM  
16 IS EXPENDED BY JULY 31, 2021.

17 (3) (b) The state department is authorized to use ~~twenty-five~~  
18 SEVENTY thousand dollars ~~or up to five percent~~ of the total funds  
19 appropriated to the grant program for the direct and indirect costs of  
20 administering and monitoring the grant program.

21 (4) (a) On or before December 30, 2020, but as soon as  
22 practicable after the effective date of this section, the state department  
23 shall award one or more grants OUT OF THE FEDERAL CARES ACT to  
24 eligible entities. ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2021, BUT AS SOON AS  
25 PRACTICABLE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE  
26 DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD ONE OR MORE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES  
27 USING STATE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE GRANT PROGRAM. In

1       awarding grants, the state department shall, at a minimum, consider:

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

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

9               (c) (I) ~~TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE,~~ food purchased by a grant  
10       recipient using grant money ~~must~~ be designated as a Colorado agricultural  
11       product.

12              (II) A grant recipient may use up to ~~ten~~ ~~TWENTY~~ percent of its  
13       grant award to cover the direct and indirect ~~costs~~ ~~EXPENSES~~ associated  
14       with the ~~implementation of its mission~~ ~~DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD,~~ including:

- 15              (A) Transportation;
- 16              (B) ~~FOOD DELIVERY;~~
- 17              (C) ~~EXPANDING~~ staff costs;
- 18              (D) ~~REFRIGERATION;~~ and
- 19              (E) Storage.

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

23              == ==

24              (5) This section is repealed, effective ~~June 30, 2022~~ JUNE 30,  
25       2023.

26              **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2020-21 state fiscal year,  
27       \$5,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services. This

1 appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that  
2 the department will require an additional 0.5 FTE. To implement this act,  
3 the department may use this appropriation for the food pantry assistance  
4 grant program created in section 26-2-139, C.R.S.

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