

# An Act

HOUSE BILL 22-1364

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Cutter and Soper, Kipp, Lontine, Titone, Amabile, Bacon, Bernett, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Herod, Hooton, Jodeh, Kennedy, Lindsay, McCluskie, McCormick, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ricks, Roberts, Sullivan, Valdez A., Valdez D., Weissman, Woodrow, Garnett, Sirota, Snyder;  
also SENATOR(S) Story and Priola, Bridges, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Jaquez Lewis, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Rodriguez, Winter, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

CONCERNING EXTENSION OF THE FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-139, **amend** (1)(b)(I), (2), and (4)(c)(I); **repeal** (5); and **add** (4)(d) and (6) as follows:

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

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

(2) There is created in the state department the food pantry assistance grant program. The purpose of the grant program is to aid Colorado food pantries and food banks in the purchase of foods that better meet the needs of their clientele, which has expanded significantly as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. ~~It is the intent of the general assembly that all money awarded by the grant program is expended by July 1, 2022.~~

(4) (c) (I) To the extent practicable, food purchased by a grant recipient using grant money MUST be designated as ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) A Colorado agricultural product; OR

(B) AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT THAT HOLDS CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIGENOUS FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE, OR FOR OTHER CULTURES OR SUBCULTURAL GROUPS, INCLUDING THE WAYS IN WHICH THOSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ARE PRODUCED.

(d) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD UP TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY FROM THE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION TO A NONPROFIT ENTITY TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO A GRANT RECIPIENT FOR TRAINING FOOD PANTRIES AND PROVIDING INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING AND LOCATING COLORADO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR A THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR SHALL SELECT THE NONPROFIT ENTITY. THE NONPROFIT ENTITY MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH FOOD PANTRIES AND PRODUCERS OF COLORADO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

~~(5) This section is repealed, effective June 30, 2023.~~

(6) (a) FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM.

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (6) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

**SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by the office of economic security. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for the food pantry assistance grant program.

**SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

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Alec Garnett  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Steve Fenberg  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date and Time)

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Jared S. Polis  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO