

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 5481**

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 5835

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND
MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the
3 World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019,
4 and any related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a
5 communicable respiratory disease;

6 (2) "Minority-owned business" means a minority business enterprise
7 as defined in section 4a-60g of the general statutes;

8 (3) "Program" means the women-owned and minority-owned
9 business grant program established pursuant to this section; and

10 (4) "Women-owned business" means any business of which fifty-one
11 per cent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets are owned by a
12 woman or women who are active in the daily affairs of the business and
13 have the power to direct the management and policies of the business.

14 (b) The Department of Economic and Community Development shall
15 establish, a women-owned and minority-owned business grant
16 program. The purpose of such program shall be to provide grants to

17 women-owned and minority-owned businesses that were established
18 during or adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as determined
19 by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. The
20 department may enter into an agreement, pursuant to chapter 55a of the
21 general statutes, with a person, firm, corporation or other entity to
22 operate such program.

23 (c) The Department of Economic and Community Development shall
24 publish on its Internet web site a notice of grant availability for the
25 period beginning on the effective date of this section and ending on June
26 30, 2022.

27 (d) Each women-owned or minority-owned business applying for a
28 grant under this section shall submit an application in such form and
29 manner as prescribed by the commissioner. Each application shall
30 include the following information: (1) The location of the principal place
31 of business of the applicant; (2) the ownership structure of the women-
32 owned or minority-owned business; (3) an explanation of the intended
33 use of the grant being applied for; and (4) such other information that
34 the commissioner deems necessary.

35 (e) The Department of Economic and Community Development shall
36 review all grant applications received under the program and determine
37 which applications are eligible for funding. Criteria for such
38 determinations shall be established by the department and included in
39 the notice of grant availability described in subsection (c) of this section.

40 (f) The amount of any grant issued pursuant to this section shall not
41 exceed twenty-five thousand dollars and the total amount of grants
42 issued shall not exceed five million dollars. No grant shall be issued
43 pursuant to this section after June 30, 2022.

44 (g) (1) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Economic
45 and Community Development shall report, in accordance with the
46 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
47 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

48 relating to commerce regarding the progress of the program and
49 including any requisite legislative proposals to accomplish the goals of
50 the program.

51 (2) Not later than January 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Economic and
52 Community Development shall report, in accordance with the
53 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
54 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
55 relating to commerce. Such report shall include the following data
56 regarding the program: (A) The number of grants provided and the
57 amount of such grants; (B) the identities of the businesses that received
58 such grants, and information regarding whether such businesses were
59 women-owned or minority-owned; (C) the intended use of each grant
60 provided, as described by the business pursuant to subdivision (3) of
61 subsection (e) of this section; (D) the number of employees employed by
62 each business that received a grant at the time such business received
63 such grant; and (E) the number of employees employed by each
64 business that received a grant at the conclusion of the program.

65 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
66 Management shall allocate five million dollars to the Department of
67 Economic and Community Development, from the federal funds
68 received by the state pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
69 Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136, as amended from time to time, the
70 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act,
71 P.L. 116-260, as amended from time to time, or the American Rescue
72 Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, for the
73 purposes of the program established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |