

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 214
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30061-MGa-55

Short Title: Grant Prog. to Reduce CV19 Vaccine Hesitancy. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Quick.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3 SERVICES TO DEVELOP A COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO ADDRESS
4 VACCINE HESITANCY AMONG HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS
5 WITHIN THE STATE.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in
8 consultation with its Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, shall establish the
9 COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Elimination Program (Program) as a competitive grant program.
10 The purpose of the program is to improve the State's COVID-19 vaccination rate among
11 historically marginalized populations residing in North Carolina by partnering with minority
12 businesses, as defined in G.S. 143-128.2(g)(1), to conduct or host public communications, health,
13 or educational initiatives; community vaccination events; social media initiatives; or other
14 activities, all of which shall be approved in advance by the DHHS to achieve the purpose of the
15 Program. The DHHS shall select grant recipients based upon selection criteria developed by the
16 DHHS, and no one grant award shall exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Grant recipients
17 shall use grant awards to conduct or host the initiatives and activities approved in advance by the
18 DHHS to improve the COVID-19 vaccination rate of historically marginalized populations in the
19 grant recipient's surrounding community. Grant recipients may not use more than five percent
20 (5%) of their grant award for administrative costs. Applications for the Program must be
21 submitted on forms provided by the DHHS. The DHHS shall continue to accept applications for
22 the Program until all Program funds are expended. In selecting grant recipients to participate in
23 the Program, the DHHS shall give priority, in no particular order of importance, to the following
24 categories of minority businesses that primarily serve historically marginalized populations:

- 25 (1) Hair salons.
- 26 (2) Barber shops.
- 27 (3) Faith-based organizations.
- 28 (4) Community centers.
- 29 (5) Public and nonpublic schools.
- 30 (6) Long-term care facilities, as defined in G.S. 131E-114.3(a)(1).
- 31 (7) Rehabilitation centers.

32 **SECTION 1.(b)** By November 1, 2022, grant recipients shall submit a report to the
33 Department of Health and Human Services that provides at least the following Program
34 information:

- 35 (1) A detailed breakdown of the grant recipient's use of the grant award.



- 1 (2) The number of individuals served by each grant recipient through the initiative
- 2 or activity preapproved by the DHHS to achieve the purpose of this Program.
- 3 (3) Any other information the DHHS deems necessary or relevant.

4 **SECTION 1.(c)** By December 1, 2022, the DHHS shall submit a report to the Joint
5 Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research
6 Division on the grant awards allocated under the Program that includes at least all of the
7 following:

- 8 (1) The identity and a brief description of each grant recipient and each initiative
- 9 or activity hosted or conducted by the grant recipient.
- 10 (2) The amount of funding awarded to each grant recipient.
- 11 (3) A detailed breakdown of each grant recipient's use of the grant award.
- 12 (4) The number of persons served by each grant recipient, broken down by
- 13 initiative or activity.

14 **SECTION 2.** Effective July 1, 2021, there is appropriated from the General Fund to
15 the Department of Health and Human Services the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in
16 nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, to be used to establish and operate the
17 COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Elimination Grant Program authorized by Section 1 of this act.

18 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
19 law.