STATE OF NEW YORK

9866

IN ASSEMBLY

April 19, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. LEMONDES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT to amend chapter 174 of the laws of 1968, constituting the New York urban development corporation act, in relation to establishing a COVID-19 relief grant program for veterans service organizations impacted by COVID-19; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Veterans Service Organizations COVID-19 relief act".

§ 2. Section 1 of chapter 174 of the laws of 1968, constituting the New York urban development corporation act, is amended by adding a new section 16-aaa to read as follows:

§ 16-aaa. The COVID-19 relief grant program for veterans service organizations. 1. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) Veterans service organization means an organization that is chartered under part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, and includes any local or area chapter, post, or other unit.

(b) Eligible veterans service organization means a veterans service organization that experienced a forty percent or greater loss of gross revenue during either the 2020 or 2021 tax year as compared to their gross revenue during the 2019 tax year.

2. Establishment and purposes. The corporation shall establish a fund to be known as the "veterans service organizations COVID-19 relief act fund" and shall pay into such fund any monies made available to the corporation for such fund from any source. The fund shall consist of such amounts as may be appropriated. The corporation is authorized to accept, as agent of the state, any gift, grant, devise or bequest, whether conditional or unconditional, including but not limited to federal grants, and to use monies made available for the program from any public or private source, for the purpose of implementing the program. The corporation shall be entitled to recover from the monies made available for the program its own necessary and documented costs

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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incurred in administering the program; provided, however, the sum that may be recovered for the corporation's administrative costs shall not exceed three percent of the monies made available for the program. The monies held in or credited to the fund shall be expended solely for the purposes set forth in this section. The corporation shall not co-mingle the monies of such fund with any other monies of the corporation or any monies held in trust by the corporation.

3. The COVID-19 relief grant program for veterans service organizations. (a) The corporation shall establish a grant program to be known as the "COVID-19 relief grant program for veterans service organizations". The program shall provide grants, within appropriations and funds designated therefor, to eligible veterans service organizations. A grant made to a veterans service organization under this program shall not exceed $50,000.

(b) An application for a grant shall be submitted in accordance with such procedures as the corporation shall establish. The procedures established by the corporation shall include a requirement that the grant applicant include information to demonstrate the required forty percentage loss or greater in gross revenue during the 2020 or 2021 tax year, and a plan for the use of such grant. Any veterans service organization that receives a grant under this section may only use such grant in accordance with the application plan submitted for the following types of expenses of the organization: (i) rent; (ii) utilities; (iii) scheduled mortgage payments; (iv) scheduled debt payments; or (v) other ordinary and necessary business expenses, including maintenance costs, administrative costs (including fees and licensing), state and local taxes and fees, operating leases, and insurance payments.

4. Reporting requirements. The corporation shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the senate minority leader, the speaker of the assembly, and the assembly minority leader on or before the first of October, and annually thereafter, describing the grants provided pursuant to this section and such other information as the corporation may deem appropriate.

5. Rules and regulations. The corporation is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the state administrative procedure act that are necessary to fulfill the purposes of this section. Such rules and regulations must be completed within one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this section.

§ 3. The sum of ten million dollars ($10,000,000), is hereby appropriated to the urban development corporation out of the moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the veterans service organizations COVID-19 relief act fund established pursuant to section 16-aaa of the New York state urban development corporation act.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.