

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4896

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 17, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblyman DAN HUTCHISON**

**District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman CODY D. MILLER**

**District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Atkins**

**SYNOPSIS**

Makes FY2025 supplemental appropriation of \$400,000 from General Fund for grant to nonprofit organization to support purchase of pet food for pet owners undergoing medical care.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/17/2024)**

1 A SUPPLEMENT to the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year  
2 ending June 30, 2025, P.L.2024, c.22.

3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and the General Assembly of the  
5 State of New Jersey:

6

7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2024, c.22,  
8 the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
9 2025, there is appropriated from the General Fund the following  
10 amount for the purpose specified:

11

12 **46 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

13 *20 Physical and Mental Health*

14 *21 Health Services*

15

16 **GRANTS-IN-AID**

17

05-4285 Community Health Services ..... \$400,000

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Total Grants-In-Aid Appropriation,

19

Health Services

\$400,000

20

21 **Grants-in-Aid**

22

05 Living for a Cause - Patient Pet Food

23

Security Wellness Program .....(\$400,000)

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25 The amount hereinabove appropriated for the Living for a Cause –  
26 Patient Pet Food Security Wellness Program shall be distributed  
27 as a grant to the nonprofit organization Living for a Cause and  
28 used to assist patients undergoing medical care in Burlington  
29 County and the surrounding counties who are experiencing  
30 economic hardship, to provide pet food to patients to alleviate  
31 the financial burden of pet ownership and prevent the surrender  
32 of pets to animal shelters.

33

34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill supplements the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations act to  
40 make an additional appropriation of \$400,000 from the General  
41 Fund to the Department of Health to provide a grant to the nonprofit  
42 organization Living for a Cause to provide funding for the Patient  
43 Pet Food Security Wellness Program. The program would assist  
44 patients undergoing medical care in Burlington County and the  
45 surrounding counties who are experiencing economic hardship, to  
46 provide pet food to patients to alleviate the financial burden of pet  
47 ownership and prevent the surrender of pets to animal shelters.

1 Living for a Cause is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in  
2 Florence, New Jersey and dedicated to a range of philanthropic  
3 causes, including animal welfare activities. Since 2009, Living for  
4 a Cause has supported many animals and their owners across New  
5 Jersey by providing an array of animal emergency programs. The  
6 program has sponsored horses that have been rescued from unsafe  
7 circumstances, provided pet oxygen masks and K9 cooling vests to  
8 relieve animals from heat stroke, distributed K9 ballistic vests to  
9 police dogs, and organized large pet food distributions for local  
10 food pantries and home delivery. Living for a Cause launched the  
11 Patient Pet Food Security Wellness Program in 2023.