

 <p>DHS MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES Department of Human Services 311 West Saratoga Street Baltimore MD 21201</p>	<p>FIA INFORMATION MEMO</p>
<p>Control Number: # 22-22</p>	<p>Effective Date: October 1, 2021 Issuance Date: May 10, 2022</p>

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT,
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

FROM: LA SHERRA AYALA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 

**RE: PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP
PROGRAM (PA2E) CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM**

**PROGRAM IMPACTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA),
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (SNAP)**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into law. Now Public Law 117-2, it establishes the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF) in section 403(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act).

With the use of the PEAF, DHS has developed the Public Assistance to Entrepreneurship (PA2E) Capital Grant Program. The PA2E Capital Grant Program will support our TCA and SNAP customers with children under 18 in their households. The PA2E Capital Grant Program will provide a one-time only, non-recurring payment awarded to assist with start-up funds needed to launch a business during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The timeframe for the PA2E Capital Grant Program is October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

PA2E Capital Grant Program

The Public Assistance to Entrepreneurship Program (PA2E) offers classes on starting a business. Courses are conducted virtually and/or in a classroom setting with other Department of Human Services (DHS) customers in your local area. The primary goal is to provide entrepreneurship

training for customers with aptitude, ideas, and talent, who are in pursuit of their entrepreneurial dreams of starting a small business while supporting their families. Applicants can apply for this one-time only grant up to a maximum grant of \$9,000. The official time frame for this program is October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

The applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be a current or former TCA recipient and/or TCA related populations (Foster Youth, TCA Youth, Non-custodial parents) within the past 2 years or,
- Must be a current or former SNAP recipient with a child or children living in the household under the age of 18 within the past 2 years and,
- Must have successfully graduated from the PA2E cohort within the past 2 years and,
- Have a complete viable business plan that includes detailed Financials and,
- Know the estimated business start-up costs and,
- Have a complete Forecast plan of how business will sustain revenue to continue after the grant is exhausted or,
- Can show proof all above criteria is met and Business is in good standing with the State of Maryland and,
- Must have established a business bank account.

The Office of Cash Programs (OCP) will work in collaboration with the Office of Nutrition Assistance Programs to administer this grant program. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) representatives will recruit PA2E graduates. The LDSS point of contact for the PA2E program will support the recruitment process by referring past PA2E graduates to their business consultant at the SBDC. SBDC Consultants will manage application submissions to OCP.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base or via email at fia.policy@maryland.gov for Montgomery County only.

For systems questions, please email fia.bsdm@maryland.gov.

cc: DHS Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHS Help Desk
Office of Administrative Hearings