

Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

An Evaluation of Department of Health Grants Funded Through the Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, Act 2018-90 directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and performance evaluation of expenditures that utilize grants from the Department of Health relating to The Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund and report our results to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, House of Representatives Health Committee, and Judiciary Committees of both chambers. I am here today to present the results of our study.

The objectives for this study were as follows:

1. To evaluate whether the Department of Health is meeting its legal mandate, mission, goals, and objectives under the program.
2. To evaluate whether grantees under the program are meeting the terms and conditions of their grants.
3. To evaluate whether grantees are meeting the stated objectives of their grants.
4. To evaluate the fiscal condition of the Trust Fund.

To accomplish these objectives, we reviewed expenditures of Department of Health grants; Pennsylvania Organ Donation Advisory Committee annual reports, their meeting notes, and correspondence; contracts between Department and Organ Procurement Organizations over our review period; and we analyzed revenues and expenditures using data obtained from the Department, Organ Procurement Organizations, and the Governor's Office of the Budget.

We found:

- There was a coordinated effort in the oversight of the Trust Fund's mission, along with the oversight of grantees and sub-grantees.
- Areas for future improvement to ensure compliance and performance based on our review of past compliance with grant agreements. For example, there was no documentation showing the ten counties with the lowest donor designations were targeted as required by the agreement. Additionally, while the agreements contained some requirements regarding social media, we were surprised to see they focused more on traditional advertising. Going forward it may be more beneficial to emphasize social media and online advertising in the agreements –

especially given the uncertainties with funding and lower expenses associated with new media sources.

- Statewide public awareness campaign efforts have continued to increase the number of organ donor designations in the Commonwealth. The total number of designations has increased from 4,462,941 in FY 2011-12 to 4,940,650 at the end of the 2019-20 fiscal year.
- The organ donor designation goal for the FYs 2012-15 grant agreement period was not reached. Although the number of designations increased by 135,844, it fell short of the campaign goal by 113,299.
- Donate Life America (DLA) data indicates of the 37 states that submitted their donor designation rates, 20 had a higher rate than Pennsylvania's 46 percent, and only 16 had a lower donor designation rate in 2012.
- In 2019, Pennsylvania had the 12th lowest donor designation rate out of the 39 states reporting, at 48 percent, according to DLA's 2019 National Donor Designation Report Card.
- As of June 30, 2020, the state's donor designation rate is 49.6 percent.
- The overall fiscal condition of the Trust Fund is a concern. The data shows that constant dollar revenues have remained relatively flat while expenditures have tended to increase.
- The Trust Fund was unable to accurately project revenues. In three of seven fiscal years, actual vs. budgeted revenues were off by more than 10 percent.
- In the first four fiscal years of our review, expenditures exceeded revenues. However, the Trust Fund did make adjustments in year five of our review.
- In FY 2018-19, the Trust Fund took appropriate measures to decrease spending, however, it appears cuts to the outreach program resulted in a significant decline in the number of organ donor designations. However, the Trust Fund did receive an increase in the donation amount allowed at driver's license and registration renewals from \$1.00 to \$3.00. This should improve the financial condition of the fund.

Based on our findings, we recommend the Pennsylvania Department of Health alter future grant agreements to better align with the Trust Fund's goals, needs, and resources and require documentation of performance.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the excellent cooperation and assistance provided by the staff of the Pennsylvania department of Health in completing this study. It is not lost on us that DOH was responding to and cooperating with LBFC in the middle of a pandemic. We would especially like to thank Ms. Amy Flaherty, Nutrition and Physical Activity Division Director, Ms. Kelly Holland, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Director, Ms. Patricia Dillon, Office of Legislative Affairs Assistant Director, and Ms. Susan Albert, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity Administrative Assistant.

And as always, this report would not be possible without the hard work of Ms. Stevi Sprenkle and Ms. Shanika Mitchell-Saint Jean, who served as analyst for this report.

With that, I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.