

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0474.01 Anna Petrini x5497

**HOUSE BILL 25-1271**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Gilchrist and Brown**, Camacho, Froelich, Rutinel, Stewart R., Willford

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Daugherty and Michaelson Jenet**,

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**House Committees**

Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING CHANGES TO PRACTICES RELATED TO FEDERAL BENEFITS**  
102      **FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Beginning on or before July 1, 2026, the bill requires a county department of human or social services (county department) to determine whether each child or youth in foster care and each youth participating in the foster youth in transition program (child or youth) may be eligible to receive benefits administered by certain federal agencies, including the United States railroad retirement board, social security administration, or

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

veterans administration (federal benefits) within 90 days after placement. If the county department determines that the child or youth may be eligible, the county department shall apply for federal benefits on behalf of the child or youth.

Under current law, certain federal agencies appoint a representative payee or fiduciary (representative payee) to receive and manage certain federal benefits on behalf of a child or youth in foster care, and a county department serving as a representative payee may use federal benefits to offset the cost of providing basic care and services to a child or youth in foster care. The bill prohibits this benefit offset practice. Instead, the bill directs a county department serving as a representative payee to establish a trust account for the federal benefits (account). Money in the account is available for a limited set of current, unmet needs. Otherwise, the representative payee must save money in the account for the future needs of the individual child or youth.

The bill sets forth various accounting and notice requirements related to federal benefits and requires the department of human services (department), in consultation with interested stakeholders, to establish guidance for county departments. The guidance extends to procedures for identifying a representative payee, disability screening for a child or youth, county department responsibilities when federal benefits are denied or when a child or youth leaves foster care, and policies governing access to account funds. The department shall provide technical assistance to a county department during the 2025 and 2026 state fiscal years.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-7-105 as  
3 follows:

4 **19-7-105. Federal benefits for children and youth in foster**  
5 **care - rules - definitions - legislative intent - legislative declaration. (1)**

6 (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

7 (I) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDES VARIOUS BENEFITS AND  
8 RESOURCES TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND  
9 SAFETY OF CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE;

10 (II) IN ADDITION TO THEIR NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES MAKING  
11 THEM ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS, CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE OFTEN

1 FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES, INCLUDING INSTABILITY IN LIVING  
2 ARRANGEMENTS, LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, AND LIMITED ACCESS  
3 TO LONG-TERM CARE AND SUPPORT;

4 (III) FEDERAL BENEFITS ARE OFTEN ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT  
5 PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM; HOWEVER,  
6 FEDERAL BENEFIT FUNDS ARE NOT ALWAYS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED FOR THE  
7 PERSONAL USE AND NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER  
8 CARE;

9 (IV) INDIVIDUALIZED ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL BENEFITS IS  
10 CRITICAL FOR ADDRESSING THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF  
11 EACH CHILD OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, PROVIDING THEM WITH THE  
12 RESOURCES NECESSARY TO PROMOTE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND  
13 LONG-TERM SUCCESS; AND

14 (V) INDIVIDUALIZED ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL BENEFITS IS  
15 CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO PRIORITIZE  
16 THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, PARTICULARLY THEIR  
17 FINANCIAL SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE, AS THEY TRANSITION TO  
18 ADULTHOOD OR REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILIES.

19 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT  
20 THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION IS TO ENSURE THAT FEDERAL BENEFITS  
21 PROVIDED TO CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE ARE SET ASIDE  
22 SPECIFICALLY FOR THE USE OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER  
23 CARE, THEREBY:

24 (I) ENABLING CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE TO ACCESS  
25 BENEFITS DIRECTLY FOR THEIR PERSONAL CARE, EDUCATION, AND  
26 WELFARE;

27 (II) HELPING TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF INSTABILITY BY GIVING

1 CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES THEY  
2 NEED TO THRIVE IN THEIR CURRENT FOSTER CARE ENVIRONMENT OR  
3 TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE; AND

4 (III) PROVIDING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE USE  
5 OF FEDERAL BENEFITS, ENSURING THAT CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER  
6 CARE RECEIVE THE FULL SUPPORT INTENDED FOR THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS.

7 (c) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CREATE A  
8 SYSTEM IN WHICH ALL FEDERAL BENEFITS ARE NOT GENERALIZED OR  
9 POOLED FOR INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES, BUT ARE INDIVIDUALLY  
10 ALLOCATED AND PROTECTED FOR THE DIRECT USE OF EACH CHILD OR  
11 YOUTH IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. IT IS FURTHER THE INTENT OF THE  
12 GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT:

13 (I) FEDERAL BENEFITS, WHICH ARE THE LEGAL ENTITLEMENT OF  
14 INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH, NOT BE USED TO COVER THE COSTS OF  
15 CARE THAT THE STATE AND COUNTIES OF COLORADO ARE LEGALLY  
16 REQUIRED TO COVER;

17 (II) FEDERAL BENEFIT FUNDS BE MANAGED AND DISTRIBUTED WITH  
18 OVERSIGHT TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE USED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT  
19 AND ADVANCEMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL CHILD OR YOUTH'S WELL-BEING  
20 AND DEVELOPMENT; AND

21 (III) FEDERAL RESOURCES BE ALLOCATED TO PRIORITIZE THE  
22 PERSONAL RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN  
23 FOSTER CARE, AFFORDING THEM THE OPPORTUNITIES AND STABILITY  
24 NECESSARY TO SUCCEED, REGARDLESS OF THEIR STATUS IN THE FOSTER  
25 CARE SYSTEM.

26 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
27 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "FEDERAL BENEFITS" MEANS SURVIVOR BENEFITS THAT ARE  
2 ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY  
3 ADMINISTRATION, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION, OR THE  
4 RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD AND THAT ARE BASED ON THE ELIGIBILITY  
5 OF AN INSURED PARENT.

6 (b) "INTERESTED PARTY" MEANS A CHILD OR YOUTH; THE CHILD'S  
7 OR YOUTH'S COUNSEL FOR YOUTH; A PARENT AND THE PARENT'S COUNSEL,  
8 UNLESS PARENTAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED OR THERE IS A COURT  
9 ORDER RESTRICTING ACCESS; THE INDIVIDUAL WITH WHOM THE CHILD OR  
10 YOUTH IS CURRENTLY PLACED; THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM; OR OTHER PARTY  
11 WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S  
12 ELIGIBILITY FOR OR RECEIPT OF FEDERAL BENEFITS.

13 (3) (a) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, A COUNTY  
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL, WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF  
15 PLACEMENT OF A CHILD OR YOUTH INTO THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER  
16 THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, DETERMINE  
17 WHETHER EACH CHILD OR YOUTH IS RECEIVING FEDERAL BENEFITS.

18 (b) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, A COUNTY  
19 DEPARTMENT SHALL, WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF  
20 PLACEMENT OF A CHILD OR YOUTH INTO THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER  
21 THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, DETERMINE  
22 WHETHER EACH CHILD OR YOUTH WHO IS NOT RECEIVING FEDERAL  
23 BENEFITS MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL BENEFITS. IF THE  
24 COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAKES AN INITIAL DETERMINATION THAT THE  
25 CHILD OR YOUTH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS,  
26 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW THE CASE OF THE  
27 CHILD OR YOUTH TO DETERMINE WHETHER CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE

1 CHANGED TO MAKE THE CHILD OR YOUTH ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL  
2 BENEFITS.

3 (c) IN CONDUCTING AN INITIAL BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY  
4 DETERMINATION OR AN ANNUAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION  
5 (3), THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH INTERESTED  
6 PARTIES.

7 (d) IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THE CHILD OR  
8 YOUTH MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL BENEFITS, THEN THE  
9 COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE  
10 FEDERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL BENEFITS ON  
11 BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

12 (e) FOLLOWING A DENIAL OF FEDERAL BENEFITS OR OTHER  
13 ADVERSE BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION, THE COUNTY  
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH INTERESTED PARTIES AND APPEAL THE  
15 DENIAL OR ADVERSE DETERMINATION IF DOING SO IS IN THE BEST  
16 INTERESTS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

17 (f) IF A CHILD OR YOUTH IS IN A NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE  
18 PLACEMENT, AND IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP  
19 CAREGIVER DETERMINES THAT THE CHILD OR YOUTH MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR  
20 FEDERAL BENEFITS, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE  
21 NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER WITH THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
22 NEEDED FOR THE NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER TO COMPLETE AND  
23 SUBMIT A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL BENEFITS ON  
24 BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

25 (4) (a) IF A CHILD OR YOUTH IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER  
26 THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY RECEIVING  
27 FEDERAL BENEFITS OR MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS PURSUANT

1 TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL  
2 PERFORM AN ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES OR  
3 FIDUCIARIES. THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL FOLLOW THE ESTABLISHED  
4 CATEGORIES OF PREFERRED PAYEES PURSUANT TO SOCIAL SECURITY OR  
5 APPLICABLE FEDERAL GUIDELINES WHEN DETERMINING WHICH POTENTIAL  
6 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY TO INCLUDE IN AN APPLICATION TO  
7 CHANGE THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY, IF THE COUNTY  
8 DEPARTMENT DEEMS A CHANGE NECESSARY, OR IN AN APPLICATION FOR  
9 FEDERAL BENEFITS. DECISIONS ABOUT WHICH POTENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
10 PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY TO INCLUDE IN AN APPLICATION MUST BE MADE IN  
11 CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES.

12 (b) IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT PROVIDES A NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP  
13 CAREGIVER WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION  
14 (3)(f) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY PRESUME THAT  
15 THE NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER IS THE APPROPRIATE  
16 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY IF THE PRESUMPTION IS  
17 CONSISTENT WITH ESTABLISHED CATEGORIES OF PREFERRED PAYEES  
18 PURSUANT TO SOCIAL SECURITY OR APPLICABLE FEDERAL GUIDELINES.

19 (c) IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT BECOMES THE REPRESENTATIVE  
20 PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY  
21 REASSESS, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES, WHETHER A  
22 CANDIDATE OTHER THAN THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT WOULD BETTER  
23 SERVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH AS THE  
24 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY.

25 (5) (a) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, IF A COUNTY  
26 DEPARTMENT IS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD  
27 OR YOUTH, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL:

1 (I) NOT USE ANY FEDERAL BENEFITS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH TO PAY  
2 FOR OR REIMBURSE THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR CARE OR SERVICES FOR  
3 THE CHILD OR YOUTH, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FOSTER CARE  
4 MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AS DEFINED IN THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY  
5 ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 675 (4)(A), COST OF CARE AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
6 19-1-103, OR ANY SPECIAL ALLOWANCES OR EXPENSES ESTABLISHED BY  
7 THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE CARE OF A CHILD OR  
8 YOUTH IN A PARTICULAR AGE RANGE;

9 (II) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN, CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL AND  
10 STATE ASSET AND RESOURCE LIMITS, AN ACCOUNT FOR DEPOSIT OF THE  
11 FEDERAL BENEFITS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH. THE ACCOUNT MAY BE AN  
12 INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT OR AN APPROVED COLLECTIVE ACCOUNT, IF THE  
13 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE MAINTAINS A SEPARATE LEDGER AND  
14 ACCOUNTING RECORDS FOR EACH CHILD OR YOUTH BENEFICIARY OF AN  
15 APPROVED COLLECTIVE ACCOUNT. THE CONTENTS OF THE ACCOUNT,  
16 INCLUDING APPLICABLE INTEREST OR EARNINGS, MUST BE SAVED FOR THE  
17 FUTURE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD OR YOUTH.

18 (III) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF THE ACCUMULATION  
19 OF THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S FEDERAL BENEFITS TO INTERESTED PARTIES.  
20 THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE:

21 (A) THE AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FEDERAL BENEFITS COLLECTED  
22 BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND CREDITED TO THE ACCOUNT  
23 MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH;

24 (B) THE BALANCE OF THE ACCOUNT MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF  
25 THE CHILD OR YOUTH; AND

26 (C) INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S ASSETS  
27 AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING BENEFITS, INSURANCE, CASH ASSETS, TRUST



1 ACCOUNTS, AND EARNINGS, IF THE ASSETS OR RESOURCES ARE  
2 CONTROLLED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

3 (b) IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE  
4 OR FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT  
5 RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING OR MAINTAINING AN ACCOUNT FOR  
6 DEPOSIT OF THE FEDERAL BENEFITS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH OR PROVIDING  
7 RELATED ACCOUNTING INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF  
8 THIS SECTION.

9 (c) IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR  
10 FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF  
11 THIS SECTION, THIS SECTION DOES NOT PREVENT OR LIMIT THE COUNTY  
12 DEPARTMENT FROM CONSERVING FOR THE CHILD OR YOUTH BENEFITS  
13 THAT:

14 (I) ARE ADMINISTERED BY A FEDERAL AGENCY; AND

15 (II) FALL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE DEFINITION OF FEDERAL  
16 BENEFITS IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

17 (6) (a) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TIMELY,  
18 DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES OF:

19 (I) SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS ON  
20 BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

21 (II) SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT TO  
22 BECOME THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR THE CHILD OR  
23 YOUTH AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR  
24 FIDUCIARY ULTIMATELY SELECTED;

25 (III) RECEIPT BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF A FEDERAL  
26 AGENCY'S DECISION REGARDING FEDERAL BENEFITS, INCLUDING DENIAL,  
27 TERMINATION, OR REDUCTION OF FEDERAL BENEFITS;

1 (IV) A DECISION BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ABOUT WHETHER  
2 OR NOT TO APPEAL AN ADVERSE DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE  
3 OUTCOME OF ANY APPEAL FILED;

4 (V) RECEIPT OF AN ELIGIBILITY REDETERMINATION; AND

5 (VI) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL ACCOUNT OR TRUST ON  
6 BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

7 (b) THE NOTICE MUST STATE THAT INTERESTED PARTIES MAY  
8 SUBMIT INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SELECTION OF A  
9 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR THE CHILD OR YOUTH, AND  
10 THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTEST THE SELECTION  
11 OF A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY BEFORE THE RELEVANT  
12 FEDERAL AGENCY, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OR  
13 VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.

14 (7) ONCE A CHILD WHO IS RECEIVING FEDERAL BENEFITS LEAVES  
15 THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT,  
16 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL RELEASE, PURSUANT TO THE  
17 REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUNDING SOURCE, ANY FUNDS THAT HAVE  
18 ACCUMULATED IN AN ACCOUNT THAT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT HAS  
19 ESTABLISHED OR MAINTAINS FOR DEPOSIT OF THE FEDERAL BENEFITS OF  
20 THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

21 (8) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
22 SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS,  
23 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS  
24 THAT ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, GUARDIANS AD  
25 LITEM, ORGANIZATIONS THAT REPRESENT COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL  
26 ADVOCATES, ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF DISABILITY  
27 RIGHTS, THE OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL, AND THE OFFICE

1 OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE, SHALL ADOPT RULES FOR THE  
2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. THE RULES MUST INCLUDE GUIDANCE  
3 TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ON:

4 (a) THE TYPES OF FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR WHICH A COUNTY  
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL, PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION,  
6 CONDUCT AN ELIGIBILITY SCREENING, SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, OR APPEAL  
7 AN ADVERSE DETERMINATION;

8 (b) SCREENING METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING WHETHER A CHILD OR  
9 YOUTH IS ALREADY RECEIVING FEDERAL BENEFITS OR MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO  
10 RECEIVE FEDERAL BENEFITS AND SCREENING METHODS FOR SUBSEQUENT  
11 ANNUAL ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS;

12 (c) BEST PRACTICES FOR CONSULTING WITH THE CHILD OR YOUTH  
13 OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
14 CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S RECEIPT OF OR ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS;

15 (d) THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR EACH  
16 CHILD OR YOUTH, WHO, PURSUANT TO SCREENING, IS LIKELY TO BE  
17 DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS;

18 (e) THE PROCESS FOR APPEALING AND REQUESTING  
19 RECONSIDERATION OF ADVERSE DECISIONS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR  
20 FEDERAL BENEFITS;

21 (f) THE PROCESS FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO A  
22 NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER WHO IS APPLYING FOR FEDERAL  
23 BENEFITS ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

24 (g) METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING, PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE  
25 FEDERAL GUIDELINES, AN APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR  
26 FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER THE  
27 LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR IN A KINSHIP CARE

1 PLACEMENT;

2 (h) THE PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING AN  
3 ACCOUNT FOR DEPOSIT AND ACCUMULATION OF THE FEDERAL BENEFITS OF  
4 A CHILD OR YOUTH WHILE IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER THE LEGAL  
5 AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND FOR PROVIDING RELATED  
6 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION ANNUALLY;

7 (i) SPECIFICATIONS FOR PROVIDING REQUIRED NOTICES REGARDING  
8 FEDERAL BENEFIT APPLICATIONS, APPLICATIONS FOR A COUNTY  
9 DEPARTMENT TO BECOME A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY,  
10 RECEIPT OF DECISIONS REGARDING FEDERAL BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY, APPEALS  
11 OF DENIALS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNTS;

12 (j) INFORMING A CHILD OR YOUTH ABOUT RIGHTS AND  
13 RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING THE CONTINUED RECEIPT OF FEDERAL  
14 BENEFITS, THE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR  
15 RESOLVING RELATED PROBLEMS, AND THE PROCESS FOR TRANSFERRING  
16 ACCUMULATED FEDERAL BENEFITS; AND

17 (k) FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE FOSTER YOUTH IN  
18 TRANSITION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO PART 3 OF THIS ARTICLE 7,  
19 INFORMATION ABOUT APPLYING FOR AND CONSERVING FEDERAL BENEFITS  
20 OR OBTAINING RELATED FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-7-305, **amend**  
22 (1)(c)(IV) as follows:

23 **19-7-305. Available services and supports.** (1) Each county  
24 department shall offer, at a minimum, the following services and supports  
25 to participating youth in the transition program:

26 (c) Case management services, including the development of a  
27 case plan with a roadmap to success for the participating youth, as well

1 as assistance in the following areas, as appropriate, and with the  
2 agreement of the participating youth:

3 (IV) Obtaining appropriate community resources and public  
4 benefits, INCLUDING APPLYING FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS AS DEFINED IN  
5 SECTION 19-7-105, CONSERVING OR MANAGING FEDERAL BENEFITS  
6 OBTAINED PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-7-105, OR OBTAINING RELATED  
7 FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING;

8 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
9 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
10 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
11 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
12 institutions.