

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

## ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 21-0905.01 Shelby Ross x4510

## HOUSE BILL 21-1270

## HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Exum and Caraveo,

## SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Kirkmeyer,

## House Committees

## Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Appropriations

## Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
102 SERVICES FOR SERVICES RELATED TO THE COLORADO  
103 EMPLOYMENT FIRST PROGRAM WITHIN THE SUPPLEMENTAL  
104 ASSISTANCE NUTRITION PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION  
105 THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

## 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>.)*

The bill appropriates money to the department of human services (department) in order to seek a 50% match from the federal government

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

**HOUSE**  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 4, 2021

for the Colorado employment first program within the supplemental assistance nutrition program. The bill requires the department to direct county departments and any third-party partners to prioritize any state or federal money received to fund employment support and job retention services and to support work-based learning opportunities for Colorado employment first participants. Any remaining money may be used to initiate and enhance current and additional state- or county-initiated third-party partnerships.

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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 26-2-307** as  
3 follows:

4           **26-2-307. Colorado employment first - supplemental nutrition**  
5           **assistance program - federal match - legislative declaration -**  
6           **definition - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

7           (I) THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THAT SPREAD THROUGH COLORADO  
8 BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY 2020 HAS LED TO EXTENSIVE JOB LOSS  
9 THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

10          (II) PERSISTENT UNEMPLOYMENT AND LOSS OF INCOME AS A  
11 RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS LED MANY COLORADANS TO  
12 RELY ON CRITICAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS, SUCH AS THE  
13 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WHICH HELPS  
14 STRUGGLING FAMILIES PAY FOR FOOD;

15          (III) IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY FOOD  
16 ASSISTANCE FOR COLORADANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE SUPPLEMENTAL  
17 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES RESOURCES DEDICATED  
18 TO EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES, KNOWN AS THE  
19 COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST PROGRAM; AND

20          (IV) THE COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST PROGRAM PROMOTES  
21 LONG-TERM SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND INDEPENDENCE BY PREPARING

1        SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS FOR  
2        MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT THROUGH WORK-RELATED EDUCATION AND  
3        TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

4                (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT  
5        INVESTING STATE DOLLARS INTO THE COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST  
6        PROGRAM WILL ENHANCE THE PROGRAM'S ABILITY TO HELP  
7        SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ACHIEVE  
8        ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY DRAWING DOWN A FIFTY PERCENT  
9        FEDERAL MATCH FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
10      PROGRAM, WHICH IS A FLEXIBLE SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR WORKFORCE  
11      DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.

12                (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
13        REQUIRES, "COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST" MEANS THE EMPLOYMENT  
14        AND TRAINING PROGRAM WITHIN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION  
15        ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

16                (3) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DIRECT COUNTY  
17        DEPARTMENTS AND ANY THIRD-PARTY PARTNERS TO PRIORITIZE THE  
18        MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION  
19        AND THE FEDERAL MATCH TO FUND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND JOB  
20        RETENTION SERVICES, AS THOSE SERVICES ARE DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
21        8-83-404(5)(b), AND TO SUPPORT WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES  
22        FOR COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST PARTICIPANTS.

23                (b) ANY REMAINING MONEY MAY BE USED TO INITIATE AND  
24        ENHANCE CURRENT AND ADDITIONAL STATE- OR COUNTY-INITIATED  
25        THIRD-PARTY PARTNERSHIPS, WHICH MUST INCLUDE ALLOWING  
26        THIRD-PARTY PARTNERS TO RECEIVE AND USE STATE MONEY AND ANY  
27        MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE FEDERAL MATCH IN ORDER TO PROVIDE

1 COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST SERVICES TO PARTICIPANTS.

2 (c) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, OR ANY  
3 THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTOR THAT RECEIVES STATE OR FEDERAL MONEY  
4 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY USE UP TO TEN PERCENT OF THE MONEY  
5 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION.

6 (4) FOR THE 2020-21 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE  
8 GENERAL FUND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED  
9 IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. IF ANY UNEXPENDED OR  
10 UNENCUMBERED MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR REMAINS  
11 AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND  
12 THE MONEY FOR THE SAME PURPOSES IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT  
13 FURTHER APPROPRIATION.

14 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.

15 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2021-22 state fiscal  
16 year, \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for  
17 use by the office of self sufficiency. This appropriation is from the  
18 general fund. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation  
19 for food stamp job search units program costs. Any money appropriated  
20 in this section not expended prior to July 1, 2021, is further appropriated  
21 to the office for the 2021-22 state fiscal year for the same purpose.

22 (2) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, the general assembly  
23 anticipates that the department of human services will receive \$3,000,000  
24 in federal funds for the office of self sufficiency to implement this act.  
25 The appropriation in subsection (1) of this section is based on the  
26 assumption that the department will receive this amount of federal funds,  
27 which is subject to the "(I)" notation as defined in the annual general

1 appropriation act for the same fiscal year.

2       **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
3 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.