

**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. 25-0736.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL 25-1279

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Stewart R., Duran, Bird, Clifford, Gilchrist, Lieder, McCluskie, Sirota, Willford, Zokaie

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jodeh,

House Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING COLLECTING STATE-LEVEL DATA FOR THE COLORADO**
102 **WORKS PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**
103 **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>.)

No later than January 1, 2026, the bill requires the department of human services (state department), in consultation with the works allocation committee, to:

- Develop a standardized process for each county to collect and report to the state department on a monthly basis

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.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 19, 2025

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 18, 2025

- certain information about the Colorado works program;
- Develop recommendations that include standardized outcome measures for third-party contracted services and required levels of evidence for third-party contracted services funded with Colorado's temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) allocation; and
- Submit a report to the joint budget committee (JBC) that includes a description of the standardized process and recommendations.

Beginning July 1, 2026, and each July thereafter, the bill requires the state department to submit a report to the JBC that includes the information collected and reported through the standardized process and the total dollar amount of Colorado's TANF allocation that is redistributed through the state budget or other programs and services and publish the information on a monthly basis on the state department's website in a publicly accessible format.

No later than July 1, 2026, the bill requires the state department to submit a report to the JBC that includes certain information related to the standard of need for eligibility for basic cash assistance.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-2-727 as
3 follows:

4 **26-2-727. Improving state-level data for the works program**
5 **- annual report.** (1) (a) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2025, THE STATE
6 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE WORKS ALLOCATION
7 COMMITTEE, SHALL DEVELOP A STANDARDIZED PROCESS FOR EACH
8 COUNTY TO COLLECT AND REPORT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON A
9 MONTHLY BASIS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

10 (I) THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF COLORADO'S TANF
11 ALLOCATION THAT IS SPENT BY THE COUNTY ON:

12 (A) BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE;

13 (B) DIVERSION PAYMENTS;

14 (C) SUPPORTIVE SERVICE PAYMENTS;

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(D) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR PARTICIPANT-FACING COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM STAFF, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED THROUGH THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTS;

(E) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM STAFF WHO ARE NOT PARTICIPANT FACING, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED THROUGH THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTS;

(F) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR PROGRAMS OR SERVICES THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM OR ANY PORTION OF WHICH IS FOR PROGRAMS OR SERVICES THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED THROUGH THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTS; AND

(G) TRANSFERS OR ANY OTHER FORM OF SPENDING ON PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OTHER THAN THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, PART 1 OF ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 26.5, AND THE SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1397;

(II) THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION THAT IS SPENT BY THE COUNTY ON:

(A) THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO RECEIVE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE; AND

(B) THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE.

(III) AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IMPACT THE FOLLOWING POLICY CHANGES HAVE ON THE TANF CASELOAD, CHURNING, AND A PARTICIPANT'S AVERAGE DURATION IN THE PROGRAM:

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(A) CHANGES TO SANCTION AND RE-ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCESSES ADOPTED THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT RULES;

(B) EXTENDING THE ENROLLMENT PERIOD BEYOND THE SIXTY-MONTH LIFETIME LIMIT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AS ENACTED IN HOUSE BILL 22-1259;

(C) EXEMPTIONS FROM WORK REQUIREMENTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AS ENACTED IN HOUSE BILL 22-1259; AND

(D) CHANGES TO INCOME DISREGARDS, AS ENACTED IN HOUSE BILL 22-1259; AND

(IV) THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM DENIED DUE TO INELIGIBILITY AND THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL APPLICATIONS REPRESENTED BY THIS NUMBER.

(b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEEK INPUT FROM INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS IN DEVELOPING THE STANDARDIZED PROCESS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE FAMILY VOICE COUNCIL WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

(c) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT TO REPORT THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION ON A MONTHLY BASIS, ANY CATEGORY OF INFORMATION THAT IS IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS CURRENTLY REPORTED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY EACH COUNTY THAT CANNOT BE REPORTED THROUGH EXISTING STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES MAY BE REPORTED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS UNTIL A REPORTING STRUCTURE AND PROCESS IS ESTABLISHED FOR THAT SPECIFIC CATEGORY OF INFORMATION.

(2) (a) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2025, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE WORKS ALLOCATION

1 COMMITTEE, SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE:

2 (I) A MENU OF STANDARDIZED OUTCOME MEASURES FOR

3 THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES FUNDED WITH COLORADO'S TANF

4 ALLOCATION; AND

5 (II) REQUIRED LEVELS OF EFFECTIVENESS FOR THIRD-PARTY

6 CONTRACTED SERVICES FUNDED WITH COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION.

7 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEEK INPUT FROM INTERESTED

8 STAKEHOLDERS AND THE WORKS ALLOCATION COMMITTEE IN DEVELOPING

9 THE RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF

10 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE FAMILY VOICE COUNCIL WITHIN THE STATE

11 DEPARTMENT.

12 (3) THE REQUIREMENT TO REPORT OR DEVELOP

13 RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES

14 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO

15 THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES THAT ARE NEW OR RENEWED AND

16 DOES NOT APPLY TO EXISTING THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES.

17 (4) INFORMATION REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1) AND

18 (2) OF THIS SECTION MUST BE REPORTED THROUGH THE COUNTY FINANCIAL

19 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, AND THROUGH THE

20 STANDARDIZED REPORTING PROCESS AND STRUCTURES DEVELOPED

21 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (5) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2025, THE STATE DEPARTMENT

23 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THAT

24 INCLUDES A DESCRIPTION OF THE STANDARDIZED PROCESS AND

25 RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND

26 (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING AN OVERVIEW OF THE INPUT AND

27 FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS.

1 (6) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026, AND EACH JANUARY
2 THEREAFTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
3 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES THE INFORMATION COLLECTED
4 AND REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND
5 THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION THAT
6 IS REDISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE STATE BUDGET OR OTHER PROGRAMS
7 AND SERVICES.

8 (7) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026, AND EACH MONTH THEREAFTER,
9 THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
10 WEBSITE IN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE FORMAT THE INFORMATION
11 ACCURATELY COLLECTED AND REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a)
12 OF THIS SECTION AND THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF COLORADO'S TANF
13 ALLOCATION THAT IS REDISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE STATE BUDGET OR
14 OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

15 (8) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026, AND EACH JANUARY
16 THEREAFTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT THE INFORMATION
17 COLLECTED AND REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS
18 SECTION TO THE WORKS ALLOCATION COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND
19 IDENTIFICATION OF EXAMPLES AND BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO SERVICES
20 FUNDED WITH COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION.

21 (9) EACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION
22 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION
23 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE
24 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES THAT PROVIDE THE INFORMATION
25 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, **add** (1)(f)
27 as follows:

1 **26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules - repeal.**

2 **(1) Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.** (f) NO LATER THAN
3 JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
4 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
5 RELATED TO THE STANDARD OF NEED FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC CASH
6 ASSISTANCE:

7 (I) HOW COLORADO'S CURRENT ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC CASH
8 ASSISTANCE COMPARES TO OTHER STATES;

9 (II) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY OTHER STATES INVEST IN THEIR
10 TANF PROGRAM;

11 (III) A LIST OF STATES THAT EXEMPLIFY HOW TO DETERMINE
12 WHETHER TO UPDATE ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE AND HOW
13 TO DO SO;

14 (IV) A PROPOSED UPDATED STANDARD OF NEED THAT REDUCES
15 EXTREME CHILD POVERTY, PROMOTES ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND
16 SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND REFLECTS THE STATE'S CURRENT ECONOMIC
17 CONDITIONS;

18 (V) THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL FAMILIES THAT WOULD HAVE
19 ACCESS TO BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE BASED ON THE PROPOSED UPDATED
20 STANDARD OF NEED CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1)(f)(IV) OF THIS SECTION;
21 AND

22 (VI) THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROPOSED UPDATED STANDARD
23 OF NEED.

24 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,
25 \$154,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by
26 the office of economic security. This appropriation is from federal
27 temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds. To implement

1 this act, the office may use the appropriation for works program
2 evaluation.

3 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
6 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
7 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
8 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
9 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
10 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
11 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.