

**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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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CHANGES TO PRACTICES RELATED TO FEDERAL BENEFITS**
102 **FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **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>.)

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

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
April 23, 2025

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 22, 2025

United States railroad retirement board, social security administration, or 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.

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

1 THEM ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS, CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE OFTEN
2 FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES, INCLUDING INSTABILITY IN LIVING
3 ARRANGEMENTS, LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, AND LIMITED ACCESS
4 TO LONG-TERM CARE AND SUPPORT;

5 (III) INDIVIDUALIZED ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL BENEFITS IS
6 CRITICAL FOR ADDRESSING THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF
7 EACH CHILD OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, PROVIDING THEM WITH THE
8 RESOURCES NECESSARY TO PROMOTE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND
9 LONG-TERM SUCCESS; AND

10 (IV) INDIVIDUALIZED ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL BENEFITS IS
11 CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO PRIORITIZE
12 THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, PARTICULARLY THEIR
13 FINANCIAL SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE, AS THEY TRANSITION TO
14 ADULTHOOD OR REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILIES.

15 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER DECLARES ITS INTENT TO
16 ENSURE THAT FEDERAL BENEFITS PROVIDED TO CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN
17 FOSTER CARE ARE SET ASIDE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE USE OF INDIVIDUAL
18 CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, THEREBY:

19 (I) ENABLING CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE TO ACCESS
20 BENEFITS DIRECTLY FOR THEIR PERSONAL CARE, EDUCATION, AND
21 WELFARE;

22 (II) HELPING TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF INSTABILITY BY GIVING
23 CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES THEY
24 NEED TO THRIVE IN THEIR CURRENT FOSTER CARE ENVIRONMENT OR
25 TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE; AND

26 (III) PROVIDING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE USE
27 OF FEDERAL BENEFITS, ENSURING THAT CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER

1 CARE RECEIVE THE FULL SUPPORT INTENDED FOR THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS.

2 (c) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT FEDERAL
3 BENEFITS ARE NOT GENERALIZED OR POOLED FOR INSTITUTIONAL
4 PURPOSES, BUT ARE INDIVIDUALLY ALLOCATED AND PROTECTED FOR THE
5 DIRECT USE OF EACH CHILD OR YOUTH IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.
6 INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATION AND PROTECTION OF FEDERAL SURVIVOR
7 BENEFITS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE MORE
8 BROADLY. THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY THAT:

10 (I) FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS, WHICH ARE THE LEGAL
11 ENTITLEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH, NOT BE USED TO
12 COVER THE COSTS OF CARE FOR CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE;

13 (II) FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFIT FUNDS BE MANAGED AND
14 DISTRIBUTED WITH OVERSIGHT TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE USED SOLELY
15 FOR THE BENEFIT AND ADVANCEMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL CHILD OR
16 YOUTH'S WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT; AND

17 (III) FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFIT RESOURCES BE ALLOCATED TO
18 PRIORITIZE THE PERSONAL RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN
19 OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, AFFORDING THEM THE OPPORTUNITIES AND
20 STABILITY NECESSARY TO SUCCEED, REGARDLESS OF THEIR STATUS IN THE
21 FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

22 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
23 REQUIRES:

24 (a) "FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS" MEANS SURVIVOR BENEFITS
25 THAT ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY
26 ADMINISTRATION, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION, OR THE
27 RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD AND THAT ARE BASED ON THE ELIGIBILITY

1 OF AN INSURED PARENT.

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

9 (3) (a) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, WITHIN NINETY
10 DAYS AFTER A COUNTY DEPARTMENT ASSUMES LEGAL CUSTODY OF OR
11 AUTHORITY OVER A CHILD OR YOUTH, IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
12 ESTABLISHES THAT THE CHILD OR YOUTH HAS A DECEASED PARENT, THE
13 COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE CHILD OR YOUTH
14 MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

15 (b) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, IF A COUNTY
16 DEPARTMENT MAKES AN INITIAL DETERMINATION THAT THE CHILD OR
17 YOUTH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS,
18 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW THE CASE OF THE
19 CHILD OR YOUTH TO DETERMINE WHETHER CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE
20 CHANGED TO MAKE THE CHILD OR YOUTH ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL
21 SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

22 (c) IN CONDUCTING AN INITIAL BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY
23 DETERMINATION OR AN ANNUAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
24 (3), THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH INTERESTED PARTIES
25 AS NECESSARY TO ASSESS THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S ELIGIBILITY FOR
26 FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS AND TO DETERMINE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
27 APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAW, THE MOST LIKELY, APPROPRIATE

1 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY.

2 (d) IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THE CHILD OR
3 YOUTH MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS, AND
4 THAT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE
5 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY, THEN THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
6 SHALL, IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL RULES AND
7 REGULATIONS, APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS ON BEHALF
8 OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH. IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT
9 THE CHILD OR YOUTH MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS
10 BUT THAT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT THE MOST APPROPRIATE
11 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL
12 PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PROSPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR
13 FIDUCIARY THAT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT HAS IDENTIFIED ABOUT HOW
14 TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR
15 YOUTH AND HOW TO BECOME THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S REPRESENTATIVE
16 PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY.

17 (e) FOLLOWING A DENIAL OF FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS OR
18 OTHER ADVERSE BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION, THE COUNTY
19 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH INTERESTED PARTIES AND DETERMINE
20 WHETHER THERE ARE GROUNDS TO APPEAL. IF THERE ARE GROUNDS TO
21 APPEAL, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL APPEAL THE DENIAL OR
22 ADVERSE DETERMINATION.

23 (f) IF A CHILD OR YOUTH IN NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE MAY BE
24 ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
25 SHALL PROVIDE THE NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER WITH
26 INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS ON
27 BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

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(4) IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT BECOMES THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REASSESS, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES, WHETHER A CANDIDATE OTHER THAN THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT WOULD BE A PREFERABLE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY.

(5) (a) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(I) NOT USE ANY FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH TO PAY FOR OR REIMBURSE THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR CARE OR SERVICES FOR THE CHILD OR YOUTH, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AS DEFINED IN THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 675 (4)(A), AND COST OF CARE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-1-103.

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

(III) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF THE ACCUMULATION OF THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS TO THE CHILD

1 OR YOUTH AND THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH. THE
2 ANNUAL ACCOUNTING INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE:

3 (A) THE AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS
4 COLLECTED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND CREDITED TO THE
5 ACCOUNT MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH;

6 (B) THE BALANCE OF THE ACCOUNT MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF
7 THE CHILD OR YOUTH; AND

8 (C) INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S ACCOUNTS
9 AND EARNINGS RELATED TO THOSE ACCOUNTS, IF APPLICABLE, AND ANY
10 ADDITIONAL ASSETS AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING BENEFITS, INSURANCE,
11 CASH ASSETS, TRUST ACCOUNTS, AND EARNINGS, IF THE ASSETS OR
12 RESOURCES ARE CONTROLLED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

13 (b) IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE
14 OR FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS,
15 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING OR
16 MAINTAINING AN ACCOUNT FOR DEPOSIT OF THE FEDERAL SURVIVOR
17 BENEFITS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH OR PROVIDING RELATED ACCOUNTING
18 INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

19 (c) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PREVENT OR LIMIT A COURT FROM
20 ORDERING OR A COUNTY DEPARTMENT FROM VOLUNTARILY UNDERTAKING
21 THE CONSERVATION OF FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR A CHILD OR
22 YOUTH OR FROM USING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND
23 STATE LAW, THE FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN
24 THE COST OF CARE.

25 (6) (a) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TIMELY,
26 DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE NOTICE TO THE PARTIES, UNLESS
27 PREVENTED BY A COURT ORDER, OF:

1 (I) SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR
2 BENEFITS ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

3 (II) SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT TO
4 BECOME THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR THE CHILD'S OR
5 YOUTH'S FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE
6 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY ULTIMATELY SELECTED;

7 (III) RECEIPT BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF A FEDERAL
8 AGENCY'S DECISION REGARDING FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS, INCLUDING
9 DENIAL, TERMINATION, OR REDUCTION OF FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS;

10 (IV) A DECISION BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ABOUT WHETHER
11 OR NOT TO APPEAL AN ADVERSE DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE
12 OUTCOME OF ANY APPEAL FILED; AND

13 (V) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL ACCOUNT OR TRUST ON
14 BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

15 (b) THE NOTICE MUST STATE THAT INTERESTED PARTIES MAY
16 SUBMIT INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SELECTION OF A
17 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR THE CHILD OR YOUTH, AND
18 THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTEST THE SELECTION
19 OF A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY BEFORE THE RELEVANT
20 FEDERAL AGENCY, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OR
21 VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.

22 (7) ONCE A CHILD WHO IS RECEIVING FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS
23 LEAVES FOSTER CARE, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL RELEASE,
24 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUNDING SOURCE, ANY FUNDS
25 THAT HAVE ACCUMULATED IN AN ACCOUNT THAT THE COUNTY
26 DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED OR MAINTAINS FOR DEPOSIT OF THE
27 FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

1 (8) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
2 SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS,
3 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS
4 THAT ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, ORGANIZATIONS
5 THAT REPRESENT COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES,
6 ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF DISABILITY RIGHTS, THE
7 OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL, AND THE OFFICE OF THE
8 CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE, SHALL ADOPT RULES CONSISTENT WITH
9 APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAW FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
10 SECTION. THE RULES MUST INCLUDE GUIDANCE TO THE COUNTY
11 DEPARTMENTS ON:

12 (a) SCREENING PROCESSES FOR IDENTIFYING WHETHER A CHILD OR
13 YOUTH IS ALREADY RECEIVING FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS OR MAY BE
14 ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS AND SCREENING
15 PROCESSES FOR SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS;

16 (b) BEST PRACTICES FOR CONSULTING WITH THE CHILD OR YOUTH
17 OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
18 CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S RECEIPT OF OR ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR
19 BENEFITS;

20 (c) THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS
21 FOR EACH CHILD OR YOUTH, WHO, PURSUANT TO SCREENING, IS LIKELY TO
22 BE DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS;

23 (d) THE PROCESS FOR MAKING A DETERMINATION ABOUT WHETHER
24 IT IS APPROPRIATE TO CHALLENGE A BENEFIT DENIAL OR OTHER ADVERSE
25 DETERMINATION;

26 (e) THE PROCESS FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION TO A
27 NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER ABOUT APPLYING FOR FEDERAL

1 SURVIVOR BENEFITS ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

2 (f) THE PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING, PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE

3 FEDERAL GUIDELINES, AN APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR

4 FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH;

5 (g) THE PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING AN

6 ACCOUNT FOR DEPOSIT AND ACCUMULATION OF THE FEDERAL SURVIVOR

7 BENEFITS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH WHILE IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER

8 THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND FOR PROVIDING

9 RELATED ACCOUNTING INFORMATION ANNUALLY;

10 (h) SPECIFICATIONS FOR PROVIDING REQUIRED NOTICES

11 REGARDING FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFIT APPLICATIONS, APPLICATIONS

12 FOR A COUNTY DEPARTMENT TO BECOME A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR

13 FIDUCIARY, RECEIPT OF DECISIONS REGARDING FEDERAL SURVIVOR

14 BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY, APPEALS OF DENIALS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF

15 ACCOUNTS; AND

16 (i) INFORMING A CHILD OR YOUTH ABOUT RIGHTS AND

17 RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING THE CONTINUED RECEIPT OF FEDERAL

18 BENEFITS, THE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR

19 RESOLVING RELATED PROBLEMS, AND THE PROCESS FOR TRANSFERRING

20 ACCUMULATED FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

21 (9) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE

22 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

23 ABOUT HOW THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS SHALL ADDRESS SAVING FEDERAL

24 SURVIVOR BENEFITS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH.

25 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-7-305, **amend**

26 **(1)(c)(IV)** as follows:

27 **19-7-305. Available services and supports. (1)** Each county

1 department shall offer, at a minimum, the following services and supports
2 to participating youth in the transition program:

3 (c) Case management services, including the development of a
4 case plan with a roadmap to success for the participating youth, as well
5 as assistance in the following areas, as appropriate, and with the
6 agreement of the participating youth:

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

12 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,
13 \$109,179 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by
14 the division of child welfare. This appropriation is from the general fund
15 and is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional
16 1.0 FTE. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation
17 for administration.

18 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
19 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
21 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
22 institutions.