

**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

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Daugherty and Michaelson Jenet,

House Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

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.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (II) HELPING TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF INSTABILITY BY GIVING
2 CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES THEY
3 NEED TO THRIVE IN THEIR CURRENT FOSTER CARE ENVIRONMENT OR
4 TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE; AND

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 REQUIRES:

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

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

14 (3) (a) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, A COUNTY
15 DEPARTMENT SHALL, WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF
16 PLACEMENT OF A CHILD OR YOUTH INTO THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER
17 THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, DETERMINE
18 WHETHER EACH CHILD OR YOUTH IS RECEIVING FEDERAL BENEFITS.

19 (b) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, A COUNTY
20 DEPARTMENT SHALL, WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF
21 PLACEMENT OF A CHILD OR YOUTH INTO THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER
22 THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, DETERMINE
23 WHETHER EACH CHILD OR YOUTH WHO IS NOT RECEIVING FEDERAL
24 BENEFITS MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL BENEFITS. IF THE
25 COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAKES AN INITIAL DETERMINATION THAT THE
26 CHILD OR YOUTH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS,
27 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW THE CASE OF THE

1 CHILD OR YOUTH TO DETERMINE WHETHER CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE
2 CHANGED TO MAKE THE CHILD OR YOUTH ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL
3 BENEFITS.

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

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

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

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

26 (4) (a) IF A CHILD OR YOUTH IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER
27 THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY RECEIVING

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

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

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

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

1 OR YOUTH, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL:

2 (I) NOT USE ANY FEDERAL BENEFITS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH TO PAY

3 FOR OR REIMBURSE THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR CARE OR SERVICES FOR

4 THE CHILD OR YOUTH, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FOSTER CARE

5 MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AS DEFINED IN THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY

6 ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 675 (4)(A), COST OF CARE AS DEFINED IN SECTION

7 19-1-103, OR ANY SPECIAL ALLOWANCES OR EXPENSES ESTABLISHED BY

8 THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE CARE OF A CHILD OR

9 YOUTH IN A PARTICULAR AGE RANGE;

10 (II) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN, CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL AND

11 STATE ASSET AND RESOURCE LIMITS, AN ACCOUNT FOR DEPOSIT OF THE

12 FEDERAL BENEFITS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH. THE ACCOUNT MAY BE AN

13 INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT OR AN APPROVED COLLECTIVE ACCOUNT, IF THE

14 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE MAINTAINS A SEPARATE LEDGER AND

15 ACCOUNTING RECORDS FOR EACH CHILD OR YOUTH BENEFICIARY OF AN

16 APPROVED COLLECTIVE ACCOUNT. THE CONTENTS OF THE ACCOUNT,

17 INCLUDING APPLICABLE INTEREST OR EARNINGS, MUST BE SAVED FOR THE

18 FUTURE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD OR YOUTH.

19 (III) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF THE ACCUMULATION

20 OF THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S FEDERAL BENEFITS TO INTERESTED PARTIES.

21 THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE:

22 (A) THE AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FEDERAL BENEFITS COLLECTED

23 BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND CREDITED TO THE ACCOUNT

24 MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH;

25 (B) THE BALANCE OF THE ACCOUNT MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF

26 THE CHILD OR YOUTH; AND

27 (C) INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S ASSETS

1 AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING BENEFITS, INSURANCE, CASH ASSETS, TRUST
2 ACCOUNTS, AND EARNINGS, IF THE ASSETS OR RESOURCES ARE
3 CONTROLLED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 TERMINATION, OR REDUCTION OF FEDERAL BENEFITS;

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

5 (V) RECEIPT OF AN ELIGIBILITY REDETERMINATION; AND

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

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

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

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

1 RIGHTS, THE OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL, AND THE OFFICE
2 OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE, SHALL ADOPT RULES FOR THE
3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. THE RULES MUST INCLUDE GUIDANCE
4 TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ON:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR IN A KINSHIP CARE
2 PLACEMENT;

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (c) Case management services, including the development of a

1 case plan with a roadmap to success for the participating youth, as well
2 as assistance in the following areas, as appropriate, and with the
3 agreement of the participating youth:

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

9 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,
10 \$109,179 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by
11 the division of child welfare. This appropriation is from the general fund
12 and is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional
13 1.0 FTE. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation
14 for administration.

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