

**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.** ==

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.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 23, 2025

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 22, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27

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

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

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

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

25 (III) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF THE ACCUMULATION
26 OF THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS TO THE CHILD
27 OR YOUTH AND THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH. THE

1 ANNUAL ACCOUNTING INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE:

2 (A) THE AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS

3 COLLECTED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND CREDITED TO THE

4 ACCOUNT MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH;

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

6 THE CHILD OR YOUTH; AND

7 (C) INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S ACCOUNTS

8 AND EARNINGS RELATED TO THOSE ACCOUNTS, IF APPLICABLE, AND ANY

9 ADDITIONAL ASSETS AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING BENEFITS, INSURANCE,

10 CASH ASSETS, TRUST ACCOUNTS, AND EARNINGS, IF THE ASSETS OR

11 RESOURCES ARE CONTROLLED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

12 (b) IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE

13 OR FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS,

14 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING OR

15 MAINTAINING AN ACCOUNT FOR DEPOSIT OF THE FEDERAL SURVIVOR

16 BENEFITS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH OR PROVIDING RELATED ACCOUNTING

17 INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (c) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PREVENT OR LIMIT A COURT FROM

19 ORDERING OR A COUNTY DEPARTMENT FROM VOLUNTARILY UNDERTAKING

20 THE CONSERVATION OF FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR A CHILD OR

21 YOUTH OR FROM USING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND

22 STATE LAW, THE FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN

23 THE COST OF CARE.

24 (6) (a) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TIMELY,

25 DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE NOTICE TO THE PARTIES, UNLESS

26 PREVENTED BY A COURT ORDER, OF:

27 (I) SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL SURVIVOR

1 BENEFITS ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

2 (II) SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT TO

3 BECOME THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR THE CHILD'S OR

4 YOUTH'S FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE

5 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY ULTIMATELY SELECTED;

6 (III) RECEIPT BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF A FEDERAL

7 AGENCY'S DECISION REGARDING FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS, INCLUDING

8 DENIAL, TERMINATION, OR REDUCTION OF FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS;

9 (IV) A DECISION BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ABOUT WHETHER

10 OR NOT TO APPEAL AN ADVERSE DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE

11 OUTCOME OF ANY APPEAL FILED; AND

12 (V) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL ACCOUNT OR TRUST ON

13 BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

14 (b) THE NOTICE MUST STATE THAT INTERESTED PARTIES MAY

15 SUBMIT INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SELECTION OF A

16 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR THE CHILD OR YOUTH, AND

17 THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTEST THE SELECTION

18 OF A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY BEFORE THE RELEVANT

19 FEDERAL AGENCY, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OR

20 VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.

21 (7) ONCE A CHILD WHO IS RECEIVING FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS

22 LEAVES FOSTER CARE, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL RELEASE,

23 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUNDING SOURCE, ANY FUNDS

24 THAT HAVE ACCUMULATED IN AN ACCOUNT THAT THE COUNTY

25 DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED OR MAINTAINS FOR DEPOSIT OF THE

26 FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

27 (8) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN

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

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

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

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

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

25 (e) THE PROCESS FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION TO A
26 NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CAREGIVER ABOUT APPLYING FOR FEDERAL
27 SURVIVOR BENEFITS ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

1 (f) THE PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING, PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE
2 FEDERAL GUIDELINES, AN APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR
3 FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH;

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

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

15 (i) INFORMING A CHILD OR YOUTH ABOUT RIGHTS AND
16 RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING THE CONTINUED RECEIPT OF FEDERAL
17 BENEFITS, THE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR
18 RESOLVING RELATED PROBLEMS, AND THE PROCESS FOR TRANSFERRING
19 ACCUMULATED FEDERAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

20 (9) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE
21 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS
22 ABOUT HOW THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS SHALL ADDRESS SAVING FEDERAL
23 SURVIVOR BENEFITS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH.

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

26 **19-7-305. Available services and supports.** (1) Each county
27 department shall offer, at a minimum, the following services and supports

1 to participating youth in the transition program:

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

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

11

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