

**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**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Stewart R., Duran**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Jodeh,**

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**House Committees**

Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING COLLECTING STATE-LEVEL DATA FOR THE COLORADO**  
102      **WORKS PROGRAM.**

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**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 certain information about the Colorado works program;

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.

- 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.

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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** 26-2-727 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 THE  
9 FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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

12 (A) BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE;

13 (B) DIVERSION PAYMENTS;

14 (C) SUPPORTIVE SERVICE PAYMENTS;

15

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

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

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

12 (G) TRANSFERS OR ANY OTHER FORM OF SPENDING ON PROGRAMS  
13 AND SERVICES OTHER THAN THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, INCLUDING  
14 THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, PART 1 OF ARTICLE 4  
15 OF TITLE 26.5, AND THE SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT AUTHORIZED  
16 PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC.  
17 1397;

18 (II) ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF  
19 COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION THAT IS SPENT BY THE COUNTY ON:

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

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

24 (III) THE IMPACT THE FOLLOWING POLICY CHANGES HAVE ON THE  
25 TANF CASELOAD, CHURNING, AND A PARTICIPANT'S AVERAGE DURATION  
26 IN THE PROGRAM:

27 (A) FULL PASS-THROUGH FOR CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS, AS

1 ENACTED IN SENATE BILL 15-012;

2 (B) CHANGES TO SANCTION AND RE-ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND

3 PROCESSES ADOPTED THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT RULES;

4 (C) EXTENDING THE ENROLLMENT PERIOD BEYOND THE

5 SIXTY-MONTH LIFETIME LIMIT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AS

6 ENACTED IN HOUSE BILL 22-1259;

7 (D) EXEMPTIONS FROM WORK REQUIREMENTS UNDER CERTAIN

8 CIRCUMSTANCES, AS ENACTED IN HOUSE BILL 22-1259; AND

9 (E) CHANGES TO INCOME DISREGARDS, AS ENACTED IN HOUSE

10 BILL 22-1259; AND

11 (IV) THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE COLORADO WORKS

12 PROGRAM DENIED DUE TO INELIGIBILITY AND THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL

13 APPLICATIONS REPRESENTED BY THIS NUMBER.

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

15 STAKEHOLDERS IN DEVELOPING THE STANDARDIZED PROCESS REQUIRED

16 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE

17 FAMILY VOICE COUNCIL WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

18 (2) (a) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2025, THE STATE

19 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE WORKS ALLOCATION

20 COMMITTEE, SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE:

21 (I) A MENU OF STANDARDIZED OUTCOME MEASURES FOR

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

23 ALLOCATION; AND

24 (II) REQUIRED LEVELS OF EVIDENCE FOR THIRD-PARTY

25 CONTRACTED SERVICES FUNDED WITH COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION.

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

27 STAKEHOLDERS AND THE WORKS ALLOCATION COMMITTEE IN DEVELOPING

1 THE RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF  
2 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE FAMILY VOICE COUNCIL WITHIN THE STATE  
3 DEPARTMENT.

4 (3) THE REQUIREMENT TO REPORT OR DEVELOP  
5 RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES  
6 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO  
7 THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES THAT ARE NEW OR RENEWED AND  
8 DOES NOT APPLY TO EXISTING THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES.

9 (4) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2025, THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
10 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THAT  
11 INCLUDES A DESCRIPTION OF THE STANDARDIZED PROCESS AND  
12 RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND  
13 (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING AN OVERVIEW OF THE INPUT AND  
14 FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS.

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

22 (6) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026, AND EACH MONTH THEREAFTER,  
23 THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S  
24 WEBSITE IN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE FORMAT THE INFORMATION  
25 ACCURATELY COLLECTED AND REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a)  
26 OF THIS SECTION AND THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF COLORADO'S TANF  
27 ALLOCATION THAT IS REDISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE STATE BUDGET OR

1 OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

2 (7) EACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION  
3 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION  
4 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE  
5 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES THAT PROVIDE THE INFORMATION  
6 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

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

9 **26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules - repeal.**

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

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

17 (II) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY OTHER STATES INVEST IN THEIR  
18 TANF PROGRAM;

19 (III) A LIST OF STATES THAT EXEMPLIFY HOW TO DETERMINE  
20 WHETHER TO UPDATE ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE AND HOW  
21 TO DO SO;

22 (IV) A PROPOSED UPDATED STANDARD OF NEED THAT REDUCES  
23 EXTREME CHILD POVERTY, PROMOTES ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND  
24 SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND REFLECTS THE STATE'S CURRENT ECONOMIC  
25 CONDITIONS;

26 (V) THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL FAMILIES THAT WOULD HAVE  
27 ACCESS TO BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE BASED ON THE PROPOSED UPDATED

1 STANDARD OF NEED CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1)(f)(IV) OF THIS SECTION;  
2 AND  
3 (VI) THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROPOSED UPDATED STANDARD  
4 OF NEED.

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