

SB 25-229: REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Kirkmeyer; Bridges Rep. Bird; Taggart

Published for: House Appropriations

Drafting number: LLS 25-0978

Fiscal Analyst:

Kristine McLaughlin, 303-866-4776 kristine.mclaughlin@coleg.gov

Version: First Revised Note

Date: April 7, 2025

Fiscal note status: This revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill, which was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of the FY 2025-26 Long Bill budget package.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill transfers funds from the Controlled Maintained Trust Fund to the General Fund and makes implementation of Medicaid coverage of services provided by community health workers subject to available appropriations.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

State Transfers

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts

	Budget Year	Out Year
Type of Impact ¹	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$1,403,512	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the table below.

Table 1A State Transfers

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$1,403,512	\$0
Cash Funds	-\$1,403,512	\$0
Net Transfer	\$0	\$0

Summary of Legislation

On July 1, 2025, the bill transfers \$1.4 million from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund to General Fund.

Additionally, the bill makes implementation of Medicaid coverage of services provided by community health workers, as required by Senate Bill 23-002, subject to available appropriations.

Background

<u>Senate Bill 23-002</u> requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to cover services—including health education, screening, and advocacy—provided by community health workers. Community health workers are defined as liaisons between health care or social service providers who are credentialed by the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The fiscal note for SB 23-002 estimated program costs to HCPF and CDPHE as shown in Table 2. Funding for FY 2025-26 is currently in the Long Bill, <u>Senate Bill 25-206</u>.

Table 2
Community Health Worker Program Costs
For Informational Purposes

	Budget Year	Out Year
Fund Source	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$2,807,023	\$3,274,872
Cash Funds	\$685,499	\$803,013
Federal Funds	\$8,233,986	\$9,607,483
Centrally Appropriated	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$11,726,508	\$13,685,368
Total FTE	1.0 FTE	1.0 FTE

State Transfers

On July 1, 2025, the bill transfers \$1,403,512 from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund (CMTF) to General Fund.

Technical Note

Under current law, the CMTF does not have sufficient funds for the transfer required by the bill; however, forthcoming legislation is expected to transfer funds into the CMTF.

The bill requires HCPF to implement the new Medicaid benefits required by SB 23-002 subject to available appropriations. Medicaid is an entitlement program required by state and federal laws to provide covered services to eligible populations and has statutory authority to exceed its annual appropriations to meet its entitlement obligations. Funding to reimburse community health workers under Medicaid is included in the FY 2025-26 Long Bill, so it is assumed HCPF is receiving sufficient appropriations to implement the bill and no additional appropriations are necessary. Further, once the program is implemented, it is assumed any overexpenditure will be accounted for through the annual budget process.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Health Care Policy and Financing

Public Health and Environment

Joint Budget Committee Staff

Treasury

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the <u>General Assembly website</u>.