

## CHAPTER 271

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**HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES**

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## SENATE BILL 17-292

BY SENATOR(S) Lundberg, Lambert, Moreno, Crowder, Kefalas, Kerr, Martinez Humenik;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Rankin, Hamner, Young, Becker K., Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Danielson, Esgar, Exum, Ginal,  
Gray, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lee, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush,  
Pettersen, Rosenthal, Salazar, Valdez, Weissman, Duran.

## AN ACT

**CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH WAGES PROGRAM FOR QUALIFYING COLORADO WORKS BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-706.6, **add (9)** as follows:

**26-2-706.6. Payments and services under Colorado works - rules - repeal.** **(9) Colorado works subsidized employment.** (a) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2017, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH COUNTIES AND THE COLORADO WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION (9), DEVELOP PROGRAM AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO GOALS, PARAMETERS, ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDING, AND AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR AN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH WAGES PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION (9) AS THE "EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM". THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHEN CREATING THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

(b) THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN ATTAINING LIVING-WAGE, PERMANENT JOBS BY FUNDING EVIDENCE-BASED SUBSIDIZED WAGES OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT, APPRENTICESHIPS, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, TRANSITIONAL JOBS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS THAT DIRECTLY SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS TIED TO A WAGE, AS IDENTIFIED IN THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PHASE. AN ENTITY, INCLUDING A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES, A WORKFORCE CENTER, OR

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. WHEN APPLYING FOR FUNDING FROM THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION MUST DEMONSTRATE IN ITS PROPOSAL COLLABORATION WITH COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES OR WORKFORCE CENTERS, AS WELL AS PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE COUNTY OR COUNTIES IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. ANY ORGANIZATION IN COLORADO MAY APPLY FOR FUNDS FROM THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IF IT MEETS THE PROGRAM PARAMETERS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(a) OF THIS SECTION. THE GOAL OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS TO SUPPORT ALL REGIONS OF THE STATE.

(c) PARTICIPANTS MAY BEGIN ENROLLING IN THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AS SOON AS IT IS DEVELOPED, BUT NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2018. THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM CEASES OPERATING ON JUNE 30, 2020.

(d) WAGES EARNED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM DO NOT COUNT AS INCOME FOR THE PURPOSES OF COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT DETERMINATION, AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION.

(e) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY ANNUALLY USE UP TO THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM TO CONTRACT WITH A QUALIFIED, INDEPENDENT ENTITY TO EVALUATE THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. THE EVALUATION MUST INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE SUCCESS OF PARTICIPANTS IN GAINING PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT AND ACHIEVING NEW SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS. THE INDEPENDENT ENTITY SHALL ALSO EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN FILLING JOBS IN INDUSTRIES WITH HIGH WORKER SHORTAGES AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COLORADO WORKS PARTICIPANTS FINDING NEW EMPLOYMENT IN LIVING-WAGE JOBS. THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION MUST BE DEVELOPED TOGETHER WITH THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM DESIGN AND ANNUALLY ASSESS THE EFFICACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, THE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM OUTCOMES ACHIEVED, AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL EFFORTS. THE FINAL EVALUATION REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2020.

(f) (I) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2018, AND ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2019, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO THE JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE ANNUAL REPORT MUST INCLUDE DETAILS CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND OUTCOMES ACHIEVED THROUGH THE INVESTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR. THE FIRST INDEPENDENT EVALUATION COMPLETED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(e) OF THIS SECTION MUST ACCOMPANY THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2019.

(II) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2020, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING THE FINAL INDEPENDENT EVALUATION COMPLETED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(e) OF THIS SECTION, TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO THE JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

(g) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021.

**SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2017-18 state fiscal year, \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by the office of self sufficiency. This appropriation is from federal temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds. To implement this act, the office may use the appropriation for a subsidized employment program for qualifying Colorado works program basic cash assistance recipients.

**SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 31, 2017