



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:
Prime Sponsors:

LLS 23-0712
Sen. Coleman, Exum
Rep. Bacon

Date: July 19, 2023
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Anna Gerstle | 303-866-4375
anna.gerstle@coleg.gov

Bill Topic:

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCIAL AID FOR YOUTH MENTORS

**Summary of
Fiscal Impact:**

- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- Local Government
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill creates the Youth Mentorship Assistance Grant Pilot Program to provide financial aid for college students who provide mentorship services through participating youth mentorship organizations. The bill increases state expenditures through FY 2026-27.

**Appropriation
Summary:**

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$100,000 to the Department of Higher Education.

**Fiscal Note
Status:**

The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 23-149**

		Budget Year FY 2023-24	Out Year FY 2024-25
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$100,000	-
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	\$15,000	

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Youth Mentorship Assistance Grant Pilot Program in the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) in the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to provide grants to youth mentorship organizations, to be distributed as financial aid to students who provide mentorship services. Students must be enrolled at a public institution of higher education for the duration of the mentorship.

The COSI board must select participating youth mentorship organizations that meet parameters set in the bill, and establish prioritization criteria and a maximum financial aid amount for each mentor. To be eligible, a youth mentorship organization must:

- provide mentorship services to youth who reside in communities that are negatively impacted by structural or systemic design, and have no access to quality mentorship services;
- require its employees, volunteers, and prospective students to complete a finger-print based criminal record check; and
- prohibit employees, volunteers, and prospective students to serve if convicted, pled nolo contendere, or received a deferred sentence for a felony, or a misdemeanor crime related to unlawful behavior involving children, sexual behavior, or domestic violence.

The first disbursement of grants to approved organizations must occur by January 1, 2024. The bill establishes annual reporting requirements, and permits the board to establish administrative policies for the program. For FY 2023-24, the General Assembly must appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund for the program; this funding cannot be used for administrative expenses. The program is repealed July 1, 2027.

State Revenue and Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in DHE by \$100,000 in FY 2023-24, paid from the General Fund, and minimally increases revenue and workload in the Department of Public Safety.

Department of Higher Education. In FY 2023-24, the COSI board in DHE will distribute \$100,000 in grants to youth mentorship organizations, and will have increased workload to administer the program. Due to the short term nature and size of the program, these duties can be accomplished by existing staff. Any program funding that is not used in FY 2023-24 is further available in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26; the fiscal note assumes that most of the pilot program will occur over two fiscal years. In FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26, workload for DHE will increase to distribute any unused funds and handle data collection and reporting.

Department of Public Safety. The bill increases fee revenue and workload for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation by a minimal amount to complete a fingerprint-based criminal record check for any employees, volunteers, and students of participating organizations who have not already completed one. The additional checks can be accomplished within current appropriations.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 6, 2023, and takes effect on August 7, 2023, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$100,000 to the Department of Higher Education. Any funds that are not expended in FY 2023-24 may be spent in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education

Public Safety