

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-1126.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

HOUSE BILL 24-1431

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Armagost,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Winter F.,

House Committees
Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE STABLE
102 HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, AND, IN
103 CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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>.)

The bill creates the stable housing for survivors of domestic or sexual violence program (program) in the department of human services (state department).

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.

The bill requires the state department to contract with community-based advocacy organizations to provide short-term assistance payments to survivors of domestic or sexual violence for stable housing.

For each state fiscal year 2024-25 through 2028-29, the bill requires the general assembly to appropriate \$2 million from the state long-term works reserve to the program.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Domestic and sexual violence inflicts profound and enduring
5 harm on children, youth, and their caregivers, with economic abuse tactics
6 often exacerbating the challenges survivors of domestic and sexual
7 violence often face in escaping their abusive environments;

8 (b) Stable housing is paramount for individuals who escape
9 abusive environments, with rapid rehousing programs playing a crucial
10 role in addressing homelessness among survivors of domestic and sexual
11 violence and their children;

12 (c) Providing timely financial assistance for housing expenses to
13 survivors of domestic and sexual violence significantly enhances the
14 safety and well-being of affected households;

15 (d) The domestic violence program within the department of
16 human services utilized federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021"
17 (ARPA), Pub.L. 117-2 funds to administer a time-limited flex fund
18 project to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence overcome
19 barriers to safety and recovery. Data from this ARPA-funded flexible
20 funding project emphasizes the critical need for housing support among
21 survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

22 (e) Community organizations that provide crisis intervention

1 services are well-positioned to provide the financial support survivors of
2 domestic and sexual violence need to overcome housing barriers and
3 establish a sense of safety and stability for themselves and their children;
4 and

5 (f) Individuals who have experienced domestic or sexual violence
6 make up a disproportionate share of the TANF program caseload, which
7 highlights the intersecting challenges faced by survivors of domestic and
8 sexual violence and their children.

9 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that using unused
10 Colorado works program state money to establish and execute a
11 housing-focused flexible financial assistance project for domestic and
12 sexual violence survivors is a proactive and effective solution to address
13 the immediate needs of this vulnerable population.

14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-2-726 as
15 follows:

16 **26-2-726. Stable housing for survivors of domestic or sexual**
17 **violence program - creation - funding - appropriation - definitions.**

18 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
19 REQUIRES:

20 (a) "CONTRACTED ORGANIZATION" MEANS A COMMUNITY
21 ORGANIZATION THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS WITH TO
22 PROVIDE STABLE HOUSING SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC OR
23 SEXUAL VIOLENCE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE PROVIDED
24 PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM THROUGH THE PROGRAM.

25 (b) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE STABLE HOUSING FOR SURVIVORS OF
26 DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF
27 THIS SECTION.

1 (c) "SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE PAYMENT" HAS THE MEANING SET
2 FORTH IN SECTION 26-2-706.6 (3).

3 (2) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
4 THE STABLE HOUSING FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE
5 PROGRAM TO PROVIDE STABLE HOUSING SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF
6 DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE
7 PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM.

8 (3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
9 SHALL CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
10 TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

11 (4) A CONTRACTED ORGANIZATION SHALL USE THE MONEY
12 ALLOCATED TO IT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL
13 SUPPORT TO A SURVIVOR OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE WHO IS
14 ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM
15 TO OBTAIN A SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE PAYMENT FOR STABLE HOUSING.

16 (5) FOR EACH STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 THROUGH 2028-29, THE
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TWO MILLION DOLLARS FROM
18 THE COLORADO LONG-TERM WORKS RESERVE, CREATED IN SECTION
19 26-2-721, TO THE PROGRAM.

20 (6) THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE
21 FUNDS USED FOR THE PROGRAM IN ITS ANNUAL COLORADO WORKS REPORT
22 SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE.

23 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-721, **amend** (2)
24 introductory portion; and **add** (2)(c) as follows:

25 **26-2-721. Colorado long-term works reserve - creation - use.**

26 (2) The general assembly, upon request of the state department, may
27 appropriate the ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the reserve for the purposes of:

1 (c) THE STABLE HOUSING FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL
2 VIOLENCE PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 26-2-726.

3 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,
4 \$2,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services. This
5 appropriation is from the Colorado long-term works reserve created in
6 section 26-2-721, C.R.S. To implement this act, the department of human
7 services may use this appropriation for the stable housing for survivors
8 of domestic or sexual violence program.

9 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
12 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
13 institutions.