



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1349: FUNDING FOR PREVENTION SERVS PROGRAMS CDEC

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Brown; Sirota
Sen. Amabile; Kirkmeyer

Fiscal Analyst:

Julia Group, 303-866-4720
julia.group@coleg.gov

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Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of its FY 2026-27 budget package.

Summary Information

Overview. Through FY 2029-30, the bill reallocates funding between the Nurse Home Visitor Program and the SafeCare Program in the Department of Early Childhood to maximize federal reimbursement. It also continues the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund and board indefinitely, which is scheduled to repeal in FY 2027-28.

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

- State Expenditures
- State Transfers

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires and includes several net neutral appropriations to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood. See State Appropriations Section.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$1,100,000	\$2,300,000
Transferred Funds	\$5,100,000	\$5,100,000
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 tables below.

**Table 1A
 State Transfers**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Nurse Home Visitor Cash Fund	-\$5,100,000	-\$5,100,000
Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund	\$5,100,000	\$5,100,000
Net Transfer	\$0	\$0

**Table 1B
 State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund (for Home Visitation Services)	\$5,100,000	\$5,100,000
General Fund (for Child Maltreatment Prevention)	-\$5,100,000	-\$5,100,000
Nurse Home Visitor Cash Fund	-\$5,100,000	-\$5,100,000
Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund	\$5,100,000	\$6,300,000
Federal Funds	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Centrally Appropriated	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$1,100,000	\$2,300,000
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

There is no net change in General Fund expenditures, as \$5.1 million in General Fund appropriations is shifted from child abuse prevention services to nurse home visiting services. Spending from the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund in FY 2027-28 reflects both funding transferred from the Nurse Home Visitor Cash Fund and the continuation of current spending, which is scheduled to repeal under current law.

Summary of Legislation

For FY 2026-27 through FY 2029-30, through FY 2029-30, the bill reallocates funding between the Nurse Home Visitor Program and the SafeCare Program in the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) to maximize federal reimbursement. Specifically, to facilitate the funding swap and draw down additional federal funds, the bill:

- annually transfers \$5.1 million from Nurse Home Visitor Program Cash Fund to the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention (COCAP) Trust Fund;
- increases General Fund appropriations for nurse home visiting services by \$5.1 million to offset funding transferred out of the Nurse Home Visitor Program Cash Fund; and
- reduces General Fund appropriations for the child maltreatment prevention services by \$5.1 million, as additional money is available in the COCAP Trust Fund following the transfer.

The swap allows the CDEC to draw down more federal funds for the SafeCare program, which is funded from the COCAP Trust Fund through the child maltreatment prevention services line item. The bill requires the CDEC to report to the Joint Budget Committee by November 1, 2029, on the total amount of federal funds drawn down.

The bill also continues the COCAP Trust Fund and board indefinitely by removing its July 1, 2027 repeal date.

Background

Both the Nurse Home Visitor Program and SafeCare are evidence-based and voluntary home visiting programs. The Nurse Home Visitor Program supports low-income first-time mothers from pregnancy to their child's second birthday. SafeCare, funded through the COCAP Trust Fund, supports physical safety in homes, educates parents on child health, and supports the parent-child relationship. SafeCare was approved by the federal government as a pilot program eligible to draw down federal matching funds.

State Transfers

From FY 2026-27 through FY 2029-30, the bill transfers approximately \$5.1 million annually between the Nurse Home Visitor Program Fund and the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund within CDEC.

State Expenditures

On net, the bill increases state expenditures in CDEC by \$1.1 million in FY 2026-27 and \$2.3 million in FY 2027-28. These impacts are summarized in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Early Childhood

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Federal Funds for SafeCare	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Continuing COCAP Trust Fund	\$0	\$1,200,000
Total Costs	\$1,100,000	\$2,300,000
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Increased Federal Funding

As shown in Table 1B above, the bill reallocates \$5.1 million in General Fund appropriations from child maltreatment prevention services to home visitation services, with no net impact on General Fund spending. The bill also adjusts cash fund appropriations to account for funds transferred to the COCAP Trust Fund and the swap in General Fund appropriations. As a result of these changes, it is expected that the SafeCare program in CDEC will be able to draw down and spend an additional \$1.1 million per year in federal funds.

Continuation of Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund and Board

The COCAP Trust Fund and Board are scheduled to repeal on July 1, 2027. By removing this repeal date, the bill is estimated to indefinitely continue expenditures of around \$1.2 million per year from the fund starting in FY 2027-28.

Reporting

Lastly, the bill increases workload for CDEC to report to the Joint Budget Committee on the amount of federal funds received. No change in appropriations is required for this work.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature. However, Section 6 only takes effect if the Long Bill becomes law, with this section taking effect on the effective date of this bill or of the FY 2026-27 Long Bill, whichever is later.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires and includes the following appropriations to the Department of Early Childhood:

- a decrease of \$5.1 million from the Nurse Home Visitor Program Cash Fund for nurse home visiting;
- an increase of \$5.1 million from the General Fund for nurse home visiting;
- a decrease by \$5.1 million from the General Fund appropriation for child maltreatment prevention; and
- an increase of \$5.1 million from the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund for child maltreatment prevention.

In addition, the bill includes technical language making this reduction in appropriations conditional on sufficient appropriations being available in the applicable line item in the FY 2026-27 Long Bill.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

Human Services

Early Childhood

Joint Budget Committee Staff