

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0474.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 25-1271

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CHANGES TO PRACTICES RELATED TO FEDERAL BENEFITS**
102 **FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE.**

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>.)

Beginning on or before July 1, 2026, the bill requires a county department of human or social services (county department) to determine whether each child or youth in foster care and each youth participating in the foster youth in transition program (child or youth) may be eligible to receive benefits administered by certain federal agencies, including the United States railroad retirement board, social security administration, or

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.

veterans administration (federal benefits) within 90 days after placement. If the county department determines that the child or youth may be eligible, the county department shall apply for federal benefits on behalf of the child or youth.

Under current law, certain federal agencies appoint a representative payee or fiduciary (representative payee) to receive and manage certain federal benefits on behalf of a child or youth in foster care, and a county department serving as a representative payee may use federal benefits to offset the cost of providing basic care and services to a child or youth in foster care. The bill prohibits this benefit offset practice. Instead, the bill directs a county department serving as a representative payee to establish a trust account for the federal benefits (account). Money in the account is available for a limited set of current, unmet needs. Otherwise, the representative payee must save money in the account for the future needs of the individual child or youth.

The bill sets forth various accounting and notice requirements related to federal benefits and requires the department of human services (department), in consultation with interested stakeholders, to establish guidance for county departments. The guidance extends to procedures for identifying a representative payee, disability screening for a child or youth, county department responsibilities when federal benefits are denied or when a child or youth leaves foster care, and policies governing access to account funds. The department shall provide technical assistance to a county department during the 2025 and 2026 state fiscal years.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-7-101, **amend**
3 (2)(a)(VI), (2)(b)(XI), (2)(b)(XII), and (2)(i)(VII) as follows:

4 **19-7-101. Rights of children and youth in foster care - written**
5 **notice - reporting - legislative declaration.** (2) A child or youth in
6 foster care or participating in the foster youth in transition program,
7 created in part 3 of this article 7, but excluding a child or youth detained
8 by or committed to the care and physical custody of the division of youth
9 services in the department of human services, has the following rights:

10 (a) Fair and equal access, including:

11 (VI) Developmentally appropriate notification of any benefits,

1 INCLUDING FEDERAL BENEFITS PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-7-105, for which
2 the child or youth is eligible or receiving, including written notification
3 of who is serving as representative payee, when applicable; and

4 (b) Appropriate placement and care, including:

5 (XI) A requirement that the representative payee for the child or
6 youth, including the department of human services if it is acting as the
7 representative payee, use any benefits the child or youth receives to meet
8 the child's or youth's individual needs CONSISTENT WITH THE
9 REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 19-7-105 FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS, after the
10 representative payee meets with the child or youth to ascertain the child's
11 or youth's current and foreseeable needs; and

12 (XII) ~~Timely~~ CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION
13 19-7-105, TIMELY notification to the social security administration to
14 initiate the transfer of benefits from a representative payee when a child
15 or youth who is receiving benefits leaves the custody of the department
16 of human services;

17 (i) The necessities to be self-sufficient during the transition to
18 adulthood, including:

19 (VII) ~~Assisting~~ CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION
20 19-7-105, ASSISTING a youth in applying for benefits the youth is eligible
21 for or currently receiving, to ensure that benefits continue once the youth
22 turns eighteen years of age or transitions out of foster care, including
23 redetermination for the purposes of social security benefits; and

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-7-105 as
25 follows:

26 **19-7-105. Federal benefits for children and youth in foster**
27 **care - rules - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE

1 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

2 (a) "CHILD OR YOUTH" MEANS A CHILD OR YOUTH WHO IS:

3 (I) IN FOSTER CARE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-1-103; OR

4 (II) PARTICIPATING IN THE FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION
5 PROGRAM, CREATED IN PART 3 OF THIS ARTICLE 7.

6 (b) "FEDERAL BENEFITS" MEANS BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY
7 FEDERAL AGENCIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES RAILROAD
8 RETIREMENT BOARD, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, OR VETERANS
9 ADMINISTRATION;

10 (c) (I) "UNMET NEEDS" MEANS EXPENSES THAT A COUNTY
11 DEPARTMENT IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW, RULE, POLICY, PRACTICE, OR
12 COURT ORDER TO PAY ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH; THAT ARE NOT
13 PROVIDED FOR BY ANOTHER SOURCE OF FUNDS OR RESOURCES; AND THAT
14 INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

15 (A) TUITION, TUTORING, AND TRAINING, INCLUDING THE COST OF
16 APPLICATION FEES, BOOKS, EQUIPMENT, AND TESTING;

17 (B) TRANSPORTATION TO WORK OR TRAINING OR TO MAINTAIN
18 FAMILY CONNECTIONS;

19 (C) TRAVEL;

20 (D) EXPENSES RELATED TO THE TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD,
21 INCLUDING FIRST AND LAST MONTH'S RENT, HOUSING APPLICATIONS,
22 ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES, FURNITURE, KITCHEN EQUIPMENT,
23 LINENS, OR CLEANING SUPPLIES;

24 (E) TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF A COMPUTER OR
25 PHONE AS NEEDED TO ADVANCE A CHILD OR YOUTH'S SKILL IN SCHOOL,
26 WORK, OR INDEPENDENCE, OR TO MAINTAIN A CONNECTION WITH FAMILY;

27 (F) INSTRUMENTS, BOOKS, SUPPLIES, FEES, OR EQUIPMENT TO

1 SUPPORT THE CHILD OR YOUTH IN PURSUING HOBBIES, SPORTS, THE ARTS,
2 OR INTERESTS; AND

3 (G) MEDICAL TREATMENT, PERSONAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE, SPECIAL
4 EQUIPMENT, THERAPY OR REHABILITATION, OR HOUSING MODIFICATION.

5 (II) "UNMET NEEDS" DOES NOT INCLUDE A COST OF CARE AS THAT
6 TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-1-103.

7 (2) (a) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, A COUNTY
8 DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER EACH CHILD OR YOUTH IS
9 RECEIVING OR MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL BENEFITS WITHIN
10 NINETY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH
11 INTO THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR UNDER THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE
12 COUNTY DEPARTMENT. IN CONDUCTING A BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY REVIEW
13 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL
14 CONSULT WITH A PARENT, CAREGIVER, OR OTHER PARTY WHO MAY HAVE
15 INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL
16 BENEFITS.

17 (b) IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THE CHILD OR
18 YOUTH IS NOT RECEIVING FEDERAL BENEFITS BUT MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO
19 RECEIVE FEDERAL BENEFITS, THEN THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL
20 APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL BENEFITS ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

21 (c) FOLLOWING A DENIAL OF FEDERAL BENEFITS OR OTHER
22 ADVERSE BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION, THE COUNTY
23 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S COUNSEL
24 FOR YOUTH AND APPEAL THE DENIAL OR ADVERSE DETERMINATION IF IN
25 THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

26 (d) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW THE
27 CASE OF EACH CHILD OR YOUTH TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CHILD OR

1 YOUTH MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS AFTER THE COUNTY
2 DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL ASSESSMENT. THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL
3 ALSO REVIEW THE CASE OF A CHILD WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FOLLOWING THE
4 CHILD'S SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CHILD
5 MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS.

6 (e) (I) IN CONNECTION WITH DETERMINING CURRENT OR
7 POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS PURSUANT TO THIS
8 SUBSECTION (2), A COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PERFORM AN ASSESSMENT
9 OF POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES OR FIDUCIARIES.

10 (II) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY A
11 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE
12 FEDERAL AGENCY GUIDELINES, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHED CATEGORIES
13 OF PREFERRED PAYEES PURSUANT TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND
14 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME GUIDELINES, AND IN COORDINATION
15 WITH THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S COUNSEL FOR YOUTH OR GUARDIAN AD
16 LITEM, PARENT, OR ANY RELATIVE OR KIN CAREGIVER. THE COUNTY
17 DEPARTMENT SHALL APPLY TO BECOME THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR
18 FIDUCIARY IF THERE IS NO OTHER SUITABLE CANDIDATE AVAILABLE.

19 (III) IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT BECOMES THE REPRESENTATIVE
20 PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY
21 REASSESS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD OR YOUTH AND THE CHILD'S
22 OR YOUTH'S COUNSEL FOR YOUTH OR GUARDIAN AD LITEM, WHETHER A
23 CANDIDATE OTHER THAN THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY BETTER SERVE
24 THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH AS THE REPRESENTATIVE
25 PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY.

26 (3) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, IF A COUNTY
27 DEPARTMENT IS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR A CHILD

1 OR YOUTH, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT:

2 (a) SHALL NOT USE ANY FEDERAL BENEFITS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH
3 TO PAY FOR OR REIMBURSE THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR CARE OR
4 SERVICES FOR THE CHILD OR YOUTH, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,
5 FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AS DEFINED IN THE FEDERAL
6 "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 675 (4)(A), COST OF CARE AS
7 DEFINED IN SECTION 19-1-103, OR ANY SPECIAL ALLOWANCES OR
8 EXPENSES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR
9 THE CARE OF A CHILD OR YOUTH IN A PARTICULAR AGE RANGE;

10 (b) MAY USE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-7-101 (2)(b)(XI), THE
11 FEDERAL BENEFITS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH FOR THE UNMET NEEDS OF THE
12 CHILD OR YOUTH FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE CHILD OR YOUTH. THE
13 COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ONGOING EXPENDITURES
14 RELATED TO A CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S UNMET NEEDS IF THE FEDERAL
15 BENEFITS ALLOCATED TO THE CHILD OR YOUTH HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED.

16 (c) SHALL ESTABLISH, IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL
17 AND STATE ASSET AND RESOURCE LIMITS, AN ACCOUNT FOR DEPOSIT AND
18 DISBURSEMENT OF THE FEDERAL BENEFITS OF A CHILD OR YOUTH. THE
19 CONTENTS OF THE ACCOUNT, INCLUDING APPLICABLE INTEREST OR
20 EARNINGS, MUST BE USED FOR THE CURRENT UNMET NEEDS OR SAVED FOR
21 THE FUTURE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD OR YOUTH, AS THE BEST
22 INTERESTS OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH REQUIRE. THE ACCOUNT MAY INCLUDE
23 THE FOLLOWING:

24 (I) A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST;

25 (II) A POOLED SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST;

26 (III) AN ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACCOUNT
27 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 529A OF THE "INTERNAL REVENUE

1 CODE OF 1986"; OR

2 (IV) ANY OTHER TRUST ACCOUNT THAT DOES NOT INTERFERE
3 WITH ASSET LIMITATIONS FOR A STATE OR FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAM FOR
4 WHICH THE CHILD OR YOUTH MAY BE ELIGIBLE; AND

5 (d) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTIONS 15-1.5-115
6 AND 19-7-101 (2)(a)(VII), SHALL PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF
7 THE USE, APPLICATION, OR SAVINGS OF THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S FEDERAL
8 BENEFITS TO THE CHILD OR YOUTH; THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S PARENT AND
9 THE PARENT'S COUNSEL, UNLESS PARENTAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN
10 TERMINATED OR THERE IS A COURT ORDER RESTRICTING ACCESS; THE
11 INDIVIDUAL WITH WHOM THE CHILD OR YOUTH IS CURRENTLY PLACED; THE
12 GUARDIAN AD LITEM; AND COUNSEL FOR YOUTH. THE ANNUAL
13 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE:

14 (I) THE AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FEDERAL BENEFITS COLLECTED
15 BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND CREDITED TO THE ACCOUNT
16 MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH;

17 (II) THE BALANCE OF THE ACCOUNT MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF
18 THE CHILD OR YOUTH;

19 (III) ANY AMOUNTS DEDUCTED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND
20 THE REASONS FOR THE DEDUCTIONS; AND

21 (IV) INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S ASSETS
22 AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING BENEFITS, INSURANCE, CASH ASSETS, TRUST
23 ACCOUNTS, AND EARNINGS, IF SUCH ASSETS OR RESOURCES ARE
24 CONTROLLED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

25 (4) (a) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TIMELY,
26 DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE NOTICE TO THE CHILD OR YOUTH; THE
27 CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S PARENT AND THE PARENT'S COUNSEL, UNLESS

1 PARENTAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED OR THERE IS A COURT ORDER
2 RESTRICTING ACCESS; THE INDIVIDUAL WITH WHOM THE CHILD OR YOUTH
3 IS CURRENTLY PLACED; THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM; AND COUNSEL FOR
4 YOUTH OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

5 (I) SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS ON
6 BEHALF OF A CHILD OR YOUTH;

7 (II) SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT TO
8 BECOME THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR THE CHILD OR
9 YOUTH, AND, PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-7-101 (2)(a)(VI), IDENTIFICATION
10 OF THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY ULTIMATELY SELECTED;

11 (III) RECEIPT BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF A FEDERAL
12 AGENCY'S DECISION REGARDING FEDERAL BENEFITS, INCLUDING DENIAL,
13 TERMINATION, OR REDUCTION OF FEDERAL BENEFITS;

14 (IV) A DECISION BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ABOUT WHETHER
15 OR NOT TO APPEAL AN ADVERSE DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE
16 OUTCOME OF ANY APPEAL FILED;

17 (V) RECEIPT OF AN ELIGIBILITY REDETERMINATION; AND

18 (VI) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL ACCOUNT OR TRUST ON
19 BEHALF OF THE CHILD OR YOUTH.

20 (b) THE NOTICE MUST STATE THAT INTERESTED PARTIES MAY
21 SUBMIT INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SELECTION OF A
22 REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR THE CHILD OR YOUTH, AND
23 THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTEST THE SELECTION
24 OF A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY BEFORE THE RELEVANT
25 FEDERAL AGENCY, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OR
26 VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.

27 (5) ONCE A CHILD WHO IS RECEIVING FEDERAL BENEFITS LEAVES

1 THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT,
2 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL RELEASE, PURSUANT TO THE
3 REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUNDING SOURCE, ANY REMAINING MONEY. IN THE
4 ABSENCE OF ANY REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUNDING SOURCE, THE COUNTY
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL RELEASE THE REMAINING MONEY TO:

- 6 (a) THE YOUTH;
- 7 (b) THE CHILD IF THE CHILD IS EMANCIPATED; OR
- 8 (c) THE PERSON WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILD IF THE CHILD
9 IS NOT EMANCIPATED.

10 (6) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
11 SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS,
12 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS
13 THAT ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, GUARDIANS AD
14 LITEM, THE OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL, ORGANIZATIONS
15 THAT ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF DISABILITY RIGHTS, AND THE OFFICE OF
16 THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE, SHALL ADOPT RULES FOR THE
17 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. THE RULES MUST INCLUDE GUIDANCE
18 TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ON:

- 19 (a) IDENTIFYING AN APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR
20 FIDUCIARY;
- 21 (b) THE TYPES OF FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR WHICH A COUNTY
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL, PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION,
23 CONDUCT AN ELIGIBILITY SCREENING, SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, OR APPEAL
24 AN ADVERSE DETERMINATION;
- 25 (c) DETERMINING THE MANNER AND TOOLS FOR CONDUCTING
26 DISABILITY SCREENINGS FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE
27 FOR BENEFITS;

1 (d) THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR EACH
2 CHILD OR YOUTH, WHO, PURSUANT TO THE DISABILITY SCREENING, IS
3 LIKELY TO BE DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS;

4 (e) REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION AND APPEALING ADVERSE
5 DECISIONS WHEN APPROPRIATE;

6 (f) INFORMING A PARENT OR CARETAKER AT THE TIME A CHILD OR
7 YOUTH LEAVES FOSTER CARE OF POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL
8 BENEFITS IF THE CHILD OR YOUTH IS NOT RECEIVING FEDERAL BENEFITS
9 BUT MAY BECOME ELIGIBLE UPON APPLICATION;

10 (g) INFORMING A CHILD OR YOUTH ABOUT RIGHTS AND
11 RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING THE CONTINUED RECEIPT OF FEDERAL
12 BENEFITS, THE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR
13 RESOLVING RELATED PROBLEMS, AND THE PROCESS FOR TRANSFERRING
14 ACCUMULATED FEDERAL BENEFITS;

15 (h) STRATEGIES FOR LEVERAGING EXISTING PROVIDERS OF CIVIL
16 LEGAL SERVICES AND LEVERAGING FUNDS PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. SECS.
17 670 TO 679C TO PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO
18 COMPLY WITH THE LAW; AND

19 (i) CHILD- OR YOUTH-CENTERED POLICIES FOR ACCESSING AND
20 DISBURSING ACCOUNT FUNDS, INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR A CHILD OR
21 YOUTH OR A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY TO REQUEST AND
22 RECEIVE ACCESS TO ACCOUNT FUNDS TO PAY FOR UNMET NEEDS AND HOW
23 TO ADMINISTER ACCESS TO FEDERAL BENEFITS PURSUANT TO FEDERAL
24 REQUIREMENTS FOR ALLOWABLE SPENDING.

25 (7) (a) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE
26 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT
27 COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ARE PROPERLY IMPLEMENTING THE

1 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
2 SHALL CONTRACT FOR SERVICES TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE THE
3 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7) SO
4 THAT THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY
5 DEPARTMENTS DURING THE STATE FISCAL YEARS COMMENCING ON JULY
6 1, 2025, AND JULY 1, 2026.

7 (b) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MAY SEEK, ACCEPT,
8 AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC
9 SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (7).

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-7-305, **amend**
11 (1)(c)(IV) as follows:

12 **19-7-305. Available services and supports.** (1) Each county
13 department shall offer, at a minimum, the following services and supports
14 to participating youth in the transition program:

15 (c) Case management services, including the development of a
16 case plan with a roadmap to success for the participating youth, as well
17 as assistance in the following areas, as appropriate, and with the
18 agreement of the participating youth:

19 (IV) Obtaining appropriate community resources and public
20 benefits, INCLUDING APPLYING FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS AS DEFINED IN
21 SECTION 19-7-105, CONSERVING OR MANAGING FEDERAL BENEFITS
22 OBTAINED PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-7-105, OR OBTAINING RELATED
23 FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING;

24 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for

- 1 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
- 2 institutions.