

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0736.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL 25-1279

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Stewart R., Duran

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jodeh,

House Committees
Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING COLLECTING STATE-LEVEL DATA FOR THE COLORADO**
102 **WORKS PROGRAM.**

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>.)

No later than January 1, 2026, the bill requires the department of human services (state department), in consultation with the works allocation committee, to:

- Develop a standardized process for each county to collect and report to the state department on a monthly basis certain information about the Colorado works program;

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.

- Develop recommendations that include standardized outcome measures for third-party contracted services and required levels of evidence for third-party contracted services funded with Colorado's temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) allocation; and
- Submit a report to the joint budget committee (JBC) that includes a description of the standardized process and recommendations.

Beginning July 1, 2026, and each July thereafter, the bill requires the state department to submit a report to the JBC that includes the information collected and reported through the standardized process and the total dollar amount of Colorado's TANF allocation that is redistributed through the state budget or other programs and services and publish the information on a monthly basis on the state department's website in a publicly accessible format.

No later than July 1, 2026, the bill requires the state department to submit a report to the JBC that includes certain information related to the standard of need for eligibility for basic cash assistance.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-2-727 as
 3 follows:

4 **26-2-727. Improving state-level data for the works program**
 5 **- annual report.** (1) (a) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2026, THE STATE
 6 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE WORKS ALLOCATION
 7 COMMITTEE, SHALL DEVELOP A STANDARDIZED PROCESS FOR EACH
 8 COUNTY TO COLLECT AND REPORT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON A
 9 MONTHLY BASIS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

10 (I) THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF COLORADO'S TANF
 11 ALLOCATION THAT IS SPENT BY THE COUNTY ON:

- 12 (A) BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE;
- 13 (B) DIVERSION PAYMENTS;
- 14 (C) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY ELIGIBILITY TECHNICIANS;
- 15 (D) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY CASE MANAGERS;

1 (E) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THIRD-PARTY
2 CONTRACTORS;

3 (F) THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO
4 RECEIVE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE;

5 (G) THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO
6 DO NOT RECEIVE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE;

7 (H) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR PARTICIPANT-FACING COLORADO
8 WORKS PROGRAM STAFF, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED
9 THROUGH THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTS;

10 (I) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM
11 STAFF WHO ARE NOT PARTICIPANT FACING, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE
12 COSTS INCURRED THROUGH THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTS;

13 (J) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR PROGRAMS OR SERVICES THAT ARE
14 NOT PART OF THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM OR ANY PORTION OF
15 WHICH IS FOR PROGRAMS OR SERVICES THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE
16 COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS
17 INCURRED THROUGH THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTS; AND

18 (K) TRANSFERS OR ANY OTHER FORM OF SPENDING ON PROGRAMS
19 AND SERVICES OTHER THAN THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM;

20 (II) THE IMPACT THE FOLLOWING POLICY CHANGES HAVE ON THE
21 TANF CASELOAD, CHURNING, AND A PARTICIPANT'S AVERAGE DURATION
22 IN THE PROGRAM:

23 (A) FULL PASS-THROUGH FOR CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS, AS
24 ENACTED IN SENATE BILL 15-012;

25 (B) CHANGES TO SANCTION AND RE-ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND
26 PROCESSES ADOPTED THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT RULES;

27 (C) EXTENDING THE ENROLLMENT PERIOD BEYOND THE

1 SIXTY-MONTH LIFETIME LIMIT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AS
2 ENACTED IN HOUSE BILL 22-1259;

3 (D) EXEMPTIONS FROM WORK REQUIREMENTS UNDER CERTAIN
4 CIRCUMSTANCES, AS ENACTED IN HOUSE BILL 22-1259; AND

5 (E) CHANGES TO INCOME DISREGARDS, AS ENACTED IN HOUSE
6 BILL 22-1259; AND

7 (III) THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE COLORADO WORKS
8 PROGRAM DENIED DUE TO INELIGIBILITY AND THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
9 APPLICATIONS REPRESENTED BY THIS NUMBER.

10 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEEK INPUT FROM INTERESTED
11 STAKEHOLDERS IN DEVELOPING THE STANDARDIZED PROCESS REQUIRED
12 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

13 (2) (a) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2026, THE STATE
14 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE WORKS ALLOCATION
15 COMMITTEE, SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS THAT INCLUDE:

16 (I) STANDARDIZED OUTCOME MEASURES FOR THIRD-PARTY
17 CONTRACTED SERVICES FUNDED WITH COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION;
18 AND

19 (II) REQUIRED LEVELS OF EVIDENCE FOR THIRD-PARTY
20 CONTRACTED SERVICES FUNDED WITH COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION.

21 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEEK INPUT FROM INTERESTED
22 STAKEHOLDERS AND THE WORKS ALLOCATION COMMITTEE IN DEVELOPING
23 THE RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF
24 THIS SECTION.

25 (3) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2026, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
26 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THAT
27 INCLUDES A DESCRIPTION OF THE STANDARDIZED PROCESS AND

1 RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND
2 (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING AN OVERVIEW OF THE INPUT AND
3 FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS.

4 (4) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND EACH JULY THEREAFTER, THE
5 STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET
6 COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES THE INFORMATION COLLECTED AND
7 REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND THE
8 TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF COLORADO'S TANF ALLOCATION THAT IS
9 REDISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE STATE BUDGET OR OTHER PROGRAMS AND
10 SERVICES.

11 (5) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND EACH MONTH THEREAFTER, THE
12 STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
13 WEBSITE IN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE FORMAT THE INFORMATION
14 COLLECTED AND REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS
15 SECTION AND THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF COLORADO'S TANF
16 ALLOCATION THAT IS REDISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE STATE BUDGET OR
17 OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

18 (6) EACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION
19 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION
20 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, **add** (1)(f)
22 as follows:

23 **26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules - repeal.**

24 (1) **Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.** (f) NO LATER THAN
25 JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
26 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
27 RELATED TO THE STANDARD OF NEED FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC CASH

1 ASSISTANCE:

2 (I) HOW COLORADO'S CURRENT ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC CASH
3 ASSISTANCE COMPARES TO OTHER STATES;

4 (II) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY OTHER STATES INVEST IN THEIR
5 TANF PROGRAM;

6 (III) A LIST OF STATES THAT EXEMPLIFY HOW TO DETERMINE
7 WHETHER TO UPDATE ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE AND HOW
8 TO DO SO;

9 (IV) A PROPOSED UPDATED STANDARD OF NEED THAT REDUCES
10 EXTREME CHILD POVERTY, PROMOTES ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND
11 SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND REFLECTS THE STATE'S CURRENT ECONOMIC
12 CONDITIONS;

13 (V) THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL FAMILIES THAT WOULD HAVE
14 ACCESS TO BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE BASED ON THE PROPOSED UPDATED
15 STANDARD OF NEED CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1)(f)(IV) OF THIS SECTION;
16 AND

17 (VI) THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROPOSED UPDATED STANDARD
18 OF NEED.

19 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
22 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
23 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
24 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
25 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
26 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.