



## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

## HB 25-1279: STATE-LEVEL DATA FOR COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM

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**Prime Sponsors:**

Rep. Stewart R.  
Sen. Jodeh

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### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill requires monthly data collection and reporting on the Colorado Works Program by the Department of Human Services and county departments.

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

- State Expenditures
- Local Government

**Appropriations.** For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$301,645 to the Department of Human Services.

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**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts**

<b>Type of Impact</b>	<b>Budget Year FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2026-27</b>
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$317,484	\$330,893
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.8 FTE	1.0 FTE

**Table 1A**  
**State Expenditures**

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Budget Year FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2026-27</b>
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$301,645	\$311,094
Centrally Appropriated	\$15,839	\$19,799
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$317,484</b>	<b>\$330,893</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.8 FTE</b>	<b>1.0 FTE</b>

## Summary of Legislation

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The bill requires the Department of Human Services (CDHS) to develop a standardized process for counties to report certain information about the Colorado Works Program by January 1, 2026. This includes counties providing information on TANF spending, third-party contracted services, impacts of state policy changes on TANF caseload, and the number of denied program applications. CDHS must also develop recommendations on a standardized outcome measure for contracted services funded by TANF.

Beginning July 1, 2026, and each July after, CDHS must report to the JBC on the information provided by counties on the Colorado Works Program and the total amount of TANF funds that are distributed through the state budget. CDHS must also regularly publish this information on their website.

By July 1, 2026, CDHS must also report to the JBC on the standard of need for eligibility for basic cash assistance, including comparisons to other states and proposed updates and costs to reduce child poverty and promote economic mobility.

## Background

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Colorado Works is the state's implementation of the federal TANF program and is funded through a federal block grant to states. Colorado receives a TANF block grant of \$136.1 million per year. The program is overseen by the CDHS and administered by counties in Colorado. Each county receives an annual allocation, based on a formula, to administer the program, provide monthly cash assistance to eligible households, and provide support services to help recipients meet their employment goals.

## State Expenditures

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The bill increases state expenditures in CDHS by \$317,000 in FY 2025-26 and \$330,000 in FY 2026-27. These costs, paid from the federal TANF block grant, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

**Table 2**  
**State Expenditures**  
**Department of Human Services**

<b>Cost Component</b>	<b>Budget Year FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2026-27</b>
Personal Services	\$63,451	\$79,314
Operating Expenses	\$1,024	\$1,280
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	\$0
Evaluation	\$230,500	\$230,500
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$15,839	\$19,799
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$317,484</b>	<b>\$330,893</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.8 FTE</b>	<b>1.0 FTE</b>

### Staff

CDHS requires 1.0 FTE to create reporting standards for counties, coordinate with stakeholders, analyze data and develop monthly reports, and conduct trainings and provide technical assistance to counties with data collection. Staff costs are prorated for a September 1, 2024 start date and include standard operating and capital outlay costs.

### Contracted Evaluation

CDHS requires \$230,500 annually for a contractor to report on the impact on TANF caseload of the child support pass-through and policy changes from [House Bill 22-1259](#). The information to make this evaluation is not available within CDHS systems, and a third-party evaluator is required to collect information, conduct the analysis, and report findings to CDHS. Based on similar CDHS contracts, it is estimated that the evaluation contract will cost \$250,000, but that the department currently has \$19,500 of unspent evaluation funds annually that will be put towards this evaluation.

### Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, leased space, and indirect cost assessments, are shown in the expenditure table(s) above.

## **Local Government**

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Workload and costs will increase for county workers to collect and submit the information required by the bill to CDHS on a monthly basis. Workload impacts will vary by county. Staff in CDHS will assist counties with required data collection.

## **Effective Date**

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The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State Appropriations**

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For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$301,645 from federal TANF Block Grant funds to the Department of Human Services, and 0.8 FTE.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Counties

Labor

Human Services