



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

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

Prime Sponsors:

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Fiscal note status: The revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill, and has been updated to reflect new information.

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 \$154,000 to the Department of Human Services.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$154,000	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$154,000	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$154,000	\$0
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

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 October 1, 2025. This includes counties providing information on TANF spending, supportive 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 January 1, 2026, and each January 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

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

The bill increases state expenditures in CDHS by \$154,000 in FY 2025-26 only. 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

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Evaluation	\$154,000	\$0
Total Costs	\$154,000	\$0
Total FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Contracted Evaluation

CDHS requires \$154,000 in one-time funds for a contractor to report on the impact of policy changes from [House Bill 22-1259](#) on TANF caseload. 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. CDHS will use the developed methodology to continue to evaluate and report on impacts annually. The estimate is based on similar CDHS contracts.

Workload

Workload will increase for CDHS 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. This workload is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

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

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$154,000 from federal TANF Block Grant funds to the Department of Human Services.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

Human Services