

Colorado Youth Detention Continuum Statute Update

January 22, 2025



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

19-2.5-1407:

The General Assembly shall annually appropriate money to the Department of Human Services for the provision of temporary shelter for juveniles by Judicial Districts.

The Judicial District may use money allocated for:

- Cost of care in a licensed temporary shelter, not to exceed five days
- Providing support to a grandparent, kin, or other suitable person for care of a juvenile released to the persons care while emergency circumstances exist
- Assessments and services for a youth receiving temporary shelter
- Establishing licensed temporary shelter

Requires annual reporting in January

Repeals in 2026



19-2.5-1407 Requires:

- On or before January 31, 2025, the House of Representatives Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, or their successor committees shall hold a joint hearing to determine whether the recommendations of the working group have been implemented in a manner that warrants the repeal prior to its scheduled repeal in 2026.
- The department shall present on its most recent report issued pursuant to section 19-2.5-1404 (3)(b)





19-2.5-1407 (3)(b)

- Pertains to data and analysis requirements around in-home and out-of-home placement options and supports for alleged juvenile offenders
- Resulted from SB 21-071, *Measures to limit the detention of juveniles*
- Report due July of each year beginning in 2023 for the prior year



Reporting Focus: 19-2.5-1404 (3)(b)

THE WHAT

Evaluate whether the number of alternative placements, range of services offered by such placements, and community-based services available meet the needs of youth in each judicial district and county.

THE WHY

- Enhance the continuum of community-based services and placement options for alleged and adjudicated juvenile offenders.
- Make recommendations to improve availability and quality of less restrictive alternative placements.
- Make recommendations to improve availability and quality of community-based service.

THE WHO

Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC) Advisory Board is the working group tasked to meet at least four times yearly, or as necessary, to complete the stated objective.



Shelter Bed Funding Utilization

- Funding for Fiscal Year 2023-24 was \$176,898
- State advisory board allocates the funds annually in July
- Judicial Districts (JDs) request to receive funding
- 14 of 22 JDs requested and accepted funds for shelter care
- JDs received the funds via contract on or before July of each year
- Primary use was for assessments and kin support
 - \$24,660 spent in FY 2022-23
 - \$21,029 spent in FY 2023-24





Primary Reason for Not Using Funding:

- Lack of existing shelter care facilities or availability of beds within the facilities.
- Not an identified need in all judicial districts
- Insufficient funding to guarantee shelter bed availability or create new shelter facilities



Recommendations

1

Increase the detention cap to 252 by incorporating the current 22 emergency beds as well as flex beds into the new statutory limit

2

Explore partnering with a third party analyst to identify service gaps and ensure equitable access to culturally appropriate services.

3

Explore the creation of uniform criteria for placements statewide, and continue to support additional options for placements

4

Continue to invest in creating additional placement options and implement existing funding for these

5

Form a task group to continue to review the impact of mandatory detention hold laws as it relates to disparate impact on certain detained youth groups



COLORADO

Department of Human Services

Division of Youth Services



Streamline Funding Request: Expand Usage

- Expand usage of allocated dollars to CYDC programs
 - Judicial districts receive increased allocations to support viable alternatives to placement
 - Allocated funds are “reinvested” through expanding usage and will offset increased costs incurred since 2022 in areas such as:

Length of stay in community programs

Hardware cost increases

Personnel services

Treatment services



A photograph of two young women embracing. The woman on the left has long braids and is wearing a brown jacket. The woman on the right has long dark hair with blue highlights and is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle containing text.

THANK YOU Questions?

*“Achieving Youth Success and Safer
Colorado Communities”*

