



Colorado Youth Detention Continuum Statute Update

January 19, 2024



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, 2024, 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)





19-2.5-1404 (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.





Reporting Progress

- Working group met the requirements by creating the performance standards and outcome measures and produced a report in the timeline required
- Created 201 data points that are being analyzed over time
- First report published July 2023
- Captured six months of data in the July 2023 report (July-December 2022)
- Meet quarterly as a working group
- Beginning stages of reporting





Shelter Bed Funding Utilization

- State advisory board allocated the funds July 1, 2022
- Judicial Districts (JDs) that wanted to receive funding responded by September 1, 2022
- JDs received the funds via contract on or before November 1, 2022
- 11 JDs accepted funds (\$88,132 allocated in FY 2023, \$121,836 was allocated in FY 2024)
- Primary use was for assessments and kin support.





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



Detention Bed Utilization

- 22 temporary emergency beds available above 215 capacity (HB23-1307)
- For the first time since a bed cap was established in 2003, detention is nearing or exceeding the capacity (218 on October, 2023)
- Have utilized 41 emergency beds so far this fiscal year (through January 16)
- Emergency beds reduced bed borrowing and transports away from local facilities and across regions



Next Steps

Looking to Next Year's Report:

Identify ways we can improve our data collection and extraction

Work with Advisory Board to fine tune standards and metrics

Prioritize changes in Trails for data collection

Review and implement requirements of new legislation for future reports



A young man with short dark hair, wearing a maroon polo shirt, is sitting on a light-colored couch. He is looking down at a tablet device he is holding in his hands. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a living room. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing text.

THANK YOU Questions?

*“Achieving Youth Success and Safer
Colorado Communities”*



COLORADO
Department of Human Services
Division of Youth Services