

CHAPTER 9

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

HOUSE BILL 00-1073

BY REPRESENTATIVES Hefley, Alexander, Lawrence, Leyba, Morrison, Tochtrop, Witwer, Bacon, Chavez, Clarke, Coleman, Decker, Gagliardi, Gordon, Kester, Mace, Mitchell, and Swenson;
also SENATORS Epps, Evans, Linkhart, Reeves, and Wham.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF "CASH ASSISTANCE" FOR PURPOSES OF THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. 26-2-703 (3.5), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

26-2-703. Definitions. As used in this part 7, unless the context otherwise requires:

(3.5) (a) "Cash assistance" means ~~assistance that is provided to or on behalf of a participant. "Cash assistance" does not include:~~

~~(a) Services that have no direct monetary value and that do not involve direct or indirect income support; or~~

~~(b) One-time short-term assistance that is paid for a period of time that does not exceed ninety days.~~ CASH, PAYMENTS, VOUCHERS, AND OTHER FORMS OF BENEFITS DESIGNED TO MEET A FAMILY'S ONGOING BASIC NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, UTILITIES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, AND GENERAL INCIDENTAL EXPENSES. "CASH ASSISTANCE" INCLUDES SUCH BENEFITS EVEN WHEN THEY ARE:

(I) PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF PAYMENTS BY A TANF AGENCY, OR OTHER AGENCY ON ITS BEHALF, TO INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS; AND

(II) CONDITIONED ON PARTICIPATION IN A WORK ACTIVITY OR COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(b) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE EXCLUDED IN PARAGRAPH (c) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3.5), "CASH ASSISTANCE" ALSO INCLUDES SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED TO FAMILIES WHO ARE NOT EMPLOYED SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION AND CHILD CARE.

(c) "CASH ASSISTANCE" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(I) NONRECURRENT, SHORT-TERM BENEFITS THAT:

(A) ARE DESIGNED TO ADDRESS A SPECIFIC CRISIS SITUATION OR EPISODE OF NEED;

(B) ARE NOT INTENDED TO MEET RECURRENT OR ONGOING NEEDS; AND

(C) WILL NOT EXTEND BEYOND FOUR MONTHS;

(II) WORK SUBSIDIES SUCH AS PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYERS OR THIRD PARTIES TO HELP COVER THE COSTS OF EMPLOYEE WAGES, BENEFITS, SUPERVISION, AND TRAINING;

(III) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES SUCH AS CHILD CARE AND TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED TO FAMILIES WHO ARE EMPLOYED;

(IV) REFUNDABLE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS;

(V) CONTRIBUTIONS TO, AND DISTRIBUTIONS FROM, INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS;

(VI) SERVICES SUCH AS COUNSELING, CASE MANAGEMENT, PEER SUPPORT, CHILD CARE INFORMATION AND REFERRAL, TRANSITIONAL SERVICES, JOB RETENTION, JOB ADVANCEMENT, AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES THAT DO NOT PROVIDE BASIC INCOME SUPPORT; AND

(VII) TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER A JOB ACCESS OR REVERSE COMMUTE PROJECT TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT OTHERWISE RECEIVING ASSISTANCE.

SECTION 2. 26-2-709 (1.5), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs. (1.5) **Rules concerning cash assistance.** ~~(a) The state board shall promulgate rules to give meaning to the term "one-time" as used in the definition of "cash assistance" set forth in section 26-2-703 (3.5) (b).~~

~~(b)~~ The state board shall promulgate rules as may be necessary to comply with changes in federal regulations relating to the definition of the term "cash assistance".

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: March 10, 2000