



## THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD FOR LARIMER COUNTY 2018

### Larimer County families need income more than three times the federal poverty level to make ends meet

The income families need to pay basic expenses in Larimer County, such as housing, child care and food, is much higher than the government's official federal poverty level. **A Larimer County family with one adult and one preschooler, for example, needs annual income of \$49,618 to make ends meet -- more than three times the federal benchmark of \$16,460 for a family of two. In Larimer County, a total of 28.5% of households fall under the standard.**

Closing the wage gap between current wages and the Self-Sufficiency Standard requires access to education, training, and jobs that provide real potential for skill and career advancement over the long term. With this edition of the *Self Sufficiency Standard 2018*, Colorado Center on Law and Policy is also releasing two supplements. The first, *On the Road: Exploring Economic Security Pathways in Colorado*, details three ways individuals and families can make jump from "surviving to thriving": through retirement savings, educational attainment, or more stable housing/home ownership. The second supplement, *Overlooked and Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Colorado*, is a demographic report that details what kind of people tend to struggle the most, breaking down those who live under the standard by factors such as age, education, ethnic background and household size.

Together, these three reports define the income realistically required to support a family without public or private assistance, which vulnerable populations are struggling, and provide guidelines on how Coloradans can achieve the standard through three pathways to economic security. The full 2018 report and its supplements can be accessed online at <https://cclponline.org/sss2018>.

**TABLE 36. The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Larimer County, CO 2018**

	Adult	Adult Preschooler	Adult Infant Preschooler	Adult Preschooler School-age	Adult School-age Teenager	2 Adults Infant	2 Adults Infant Preschooler	2 Adults Preschooler School-age
<b>MONTHLY COSTS</b>								
Housing	\$905	\$1,106	\$1,106	\$1,106	\$1,106	\$1,106	\$1,106	\$1,106
Child Care	\$0	\$1,072	\$2,272	\$1,608	\$537	\$1,201	\$2,272	\$1,608
Food	\$279	\$423	\$556	\$639	\$740	\$659	\$780	\$859
Transportation	\$254	\$261	\$261	\$261	\$261	\$500	\$500	\$500
Health Care	\$158	\$411	\$426	\$433	\$460	\$475	\$487	\$494
Miscellaneous	\$160	\$327	\$462	\$405	\$310	\$394	\$514	\$457
Taxes	\$338	\$751	\$1,163	\$956	\$586	\$872	\$1,232	\$1,023
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$79)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$50)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$105)	(\$50)	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$167)	(\$333)	(\$333)	(\$333)	(\$167)	(\$333)	(\$333)
<b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>								
Hourly	\$11.90	\$23.49	\$33.03	\$28.26	\$19.79	\$14.17	\$18.35	\$15.95
						per adult	per adult	per adult
Monthly	\$2,094	\$4,135	\$5,813	\$4,974	\$3,483	\$4,989	\$6,458	\$5,613
Annual	\$25,124	\$49,618	\$69,760	\$59,694	\$41,799	\$59,871	\$77,499	\$67,352
Emergency Savings Fund (Monthly)	\$47	\$117	\$294	\$197	\$125	\$63	\$84	\$78



*Skills2Compete-Colorado is a multisector policy coalition focused on skill acquisition for employment. Our members include staff from community based employment programs, adult education providers, workforce center staff, state agencies, community colleges, businesses, and advocacy organizations.*



## **Creating a Pilot Program for Emergency Employment Support Services- HB 19 - 1107**

Updated January 19, 2019

***Sponsored by Representative James Coleman,  
Senator Rhonda Fields and Senator Kevin Priola***

### **The Issue**

- The availability of supportive services for employment goals – such as emergency child care, work equipment or legal assistance – is critical for those with barriers to employment to successfully pursue an employment or training opportunity. A 2017 report authored by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research **found that each supportive service provided increased a participant’s probability of completing a job training activity by 11 percentage points.**
- A needs assessment encompassing 63 of Colorado’s 64 counties revealed the need for emergency supportive service funds to support job-seekers’ employment goals.
- No large scale program for this purpose exists in Colorado, leaving many Coloradans without the resources they need to participate in the state’s growing economy.

### **What would this bill do?**

1. Create a three-year pilot program in the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment’s Division of Employment and Training for an emergency supportive services fund that community based organizations (CBOs) and public agencies (PAs) can draw from to serve their participants with barriers to employment.
2. Target those who are working on an employment goal (training, job preparation and search, job retention) with an income under 100% of federal poverty level – e.g. \$12,140 per year for a single person, \$20,780 per year for a family of three.
3. Establish a reimbursement mechanism for eligible PAs and CBOs to provide funds up-front to their participants for employment related supportive services. Participant benefits are capped at \$400 per annum, per eligible job-seeker on a per need basis.

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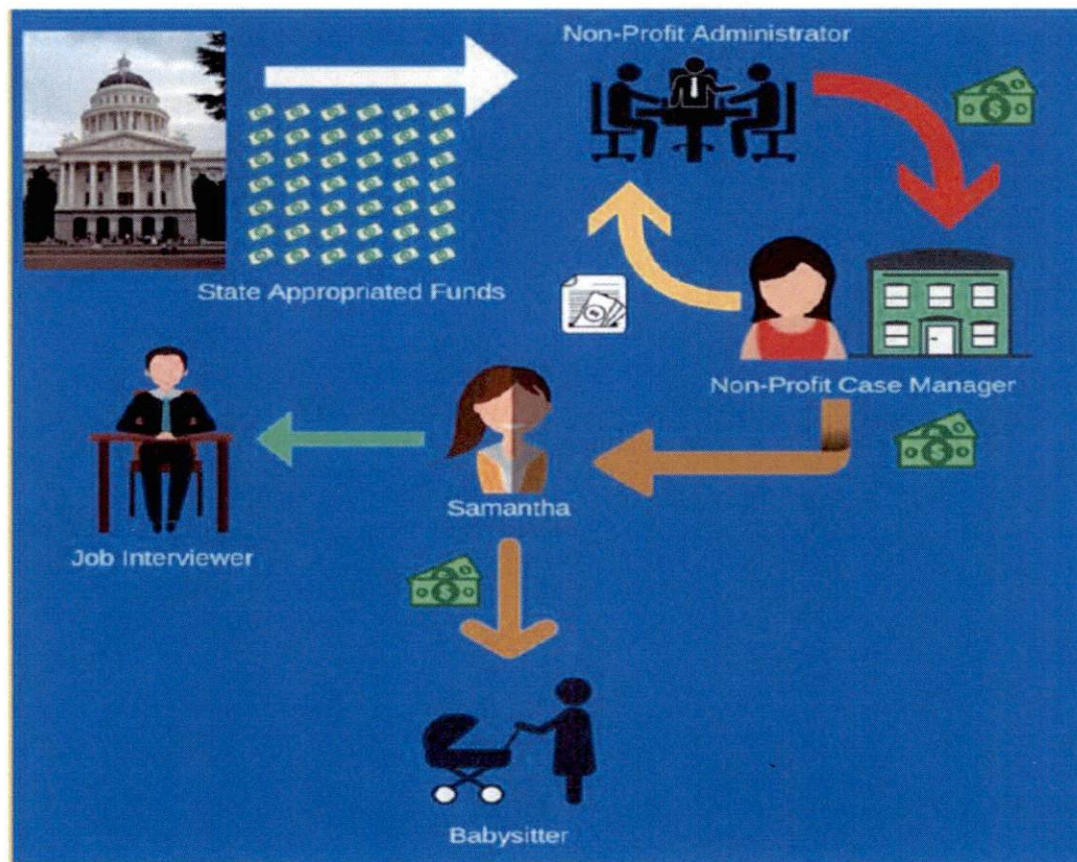
**Current Endorsers of this bill:**

All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition (AFDC)  
Association of Centers for Independent Living (ACCIL)  
Bayaud Enterprises  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Pueblo  
Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP)  
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
Colorado Cross Disability Coalition (CCDC)  
CommunityWorks  
The Curtis Hotel  
CWEE  
Emily Griffith Foundation  
Emily Griffith Technical College  
Good Business Colorado  
Mi Casa Resource Center  
People's Advocacy Council  
Remerg  
Skills2Compete-Colorado  
Southern Colorado Community Action Agency, Inc. (SoCoCAA)  
Women's Foundation of Colorado  
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning  
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch  
Young Invincibles

1/18/19

### Example Scenario

Samantha has been participating in a local non-profit's employment program to learn a new skill. She has recently been offered an interview with a company in the industry she's been training for, but has no means to pay the \$60 for child care the day of the interview. Her non-profit case manager writes a company check made out to Samantha's babysitter, allowing Samantha to attend the interview. The case manager submits a reimbursement request of \$60 for child care to the non-profit administrator and the case manager's company is reimbursed in a timely manner.





**NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION**  
Every worker. Every industry. **A strong economy.**

January 24, 2019

Dear House Business Affairs and Labor Committee:

I am writing to convey National Skills Coalition's strong support for House Bill 19 - 1107.

National Skills Coalition is a broad-based coalition working to grow the economy by investing in people so that every worker and industry has the skills to compete. We have over 20,000 partners across the country made up of leaders drawn from business, labor, community colleges, community-based organizations and the public workforce system.

Middle-skill jobs are critical to a strong economy in Colorado, and many Coloradans want to fill these jobs but face financial barriers to completing training programs that would allow them to do so. HB 19 – 1107 will help these Coloradans overcome barriers to complete training programs, enter in-demand middle-skill jobs, and grow the state's economy.

Middle-skill jobs, or those that require more than a high school degree but not a four year degree, make up the largest part of Colorado's labor market. Middle-skill jobs account for 50% of Colorado's labor market, but only 40% of the state's workers are trained to the middle-skill level. Key industries in Colorado are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these jobs, which keeps businesses who want and need to hire locally from growing. The skills gap also hurts workers who want to move into a good job but need more training to do so.

There are Coloradans working in low-wage jobs who want to upgrade their skills to advance their careers. In addition, some Coloradans who are not employed may want to build their skills to find a good job. However, financial challenges – such as unexpected costs associated with child care or transportation – may prevent some Coloradans from succeeding in job training.

HB 19 – 1107 will help low-income Coloradans overcome these financial barriers so they can train for and enter middle-skill jobs. The bill would ensure that Coloradans pursuing an in-demand skill or job won't be derailed by a small-dollar financial emergency by providing a dedicated fund to cover unexpected hardships. The bill also has a critical job-retention provision that helps businesses retain new employees who might be experiencing a low-cost financial hurdle. Giving more Coloradans the financial support they need to train for jobs will also help grow the skilled workforce, which is essential during times of record low unemployment.

We support HB 19 – 1107 because it represents a strategic investment of state resources that will help Colorado's workers and industries get the skills they need to compete.

Sincerely,

Rachel Hirsch  
State Network Manager  
National Skills Coalition



**Catholic Charities**  
of Central Colorado

*50 Years of Hope*  
1968 - 2018

Offering over 75  
Programs & Services  
in the areas of:

*Family Services*

*Paths to Opportunity*

*Emergency/Essential Services*

*Health & Well-Being*

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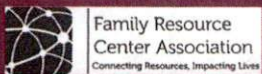
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**CCharitiesCC.org**  
info@CCharitiesCC.org



Tax ID: 84-0586169

January 29, 2019

Dear House Business Affairs and Labor Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado to convey our support for House Bill 19-1107 Employment Support and Job Retention Services.

As the charitable arm of the Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs, our agency is committed to addressing the root causes of poverty and homelessness in the ten counties we serve, focusing primarily on El Paso and Douglas Counties. While our soup kitchen serves an average of 600 meals per day and we distribute clothing and other emergency items, we view employment as one of our most effective tools in moving our clients from crisis to stability. Our Life Skills and Career Development Program helps an average of 10 adults -- most of whom are living in shelters or are street homeless -- find work each month. It is one of our most impactful poverty reduction programs.

House Bill 19-1107 will make a profound difference in our ability to grow and support those whom we work with in overcoming the financial barriers that so often accompany entrance into the workforce. By helping offset the associated costs of employment such as childcare, transportation or proper attire, such as work boots for construction jobs, this Bill will help put more of our clients to work and allow them to stabilize faster.

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado supports HB 19-1107 as a smart investment of state resources to help our workers and industries get the skills they need to compete.

Sincerely,

Andy Barton  
President & CEO



# Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pueblo

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TTY 7-1-1 OR 800-659-2656

"PROVIDING HELP . . . CREATING HOPE"

January 25, 2019

Dear House Business Affairs and Labor Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pueblo to convey our support for House Bill 19-1107 Employment Support and Job Retention Services.

As a human services organization, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pueblo is dedicated to fighting poverty in Southern Colorado through programs like our ReHire Colorado program, a transitional employment program that combines wage-paid work, job skills training and supportive services to help individuals succeed in the workforce. This program supports people entering the workforce by helping them build on the skills needed to enter typical mid-level jobs.

House Bill 19-1107 will help further the assistance that agencies like ours are able to provide to people in need by offering the support to overcome financial barriers that so often accompany entrance into the workforce. This support could be as simple as affording someone a car battery so they could have transportation to and from work, childcare while they go on a job interview, or even work boots for construction jobs. Ensuring that job-seekers have this support in place to afford the basic necessities associated with employment, opens up opportunities for so many that are struggling in our communities.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pueblo supports HB 19-1107 as it calls for a necessary investment to help extend opportunities for individuals in need and expand Colorado's workforce for the better.

Sincerely,

Joe Mahoney, MNM  
Executive Director