

House Health & Human Services

03/04/2025 Upon Adjournment

HB25-1279 State-Level Data for Colorado Works Program

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Aubrey Wilde For Colorado Coalition for the Homeless</p>	<p>Members of House Health & Human Services,</p> <p>The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition, CCH) strongly supports HB25-1279, "State-Level Data for Colorado Works Program," which aims to enhance data collection and reporting within the Colorado Works Program, our state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.</p> <p>The Coalition's work includes helping individuals access resources they need to get on a path to stability, including Colorado Works. This legislation mandates the Department of Human Services (DHS), in collaboration with the Works Allocation Committee, to establish a standardized process for counties to collect and report specific data monthly.</p> <p>CCH has long been a supporter of the program and has been a leader in successful regulatory and statutory efforts to increase Basic Cash Assistance (BCA), reduce barriers to access, lessen the "cliff effect," and improve engagement and outreach with families.</p> <p>By implementing standardized data collection, HB25-1279 will provide a comprehensive understanding of TANF fund allocation, including expenditures on BCA, supportive services, administrative costs, and third-party contracted services. This transparency is crucial for assessing the program's effectiveness and ensuring that resources are directed to the most impactful services.</p> <p>The bill also requires DHS to develop recommendations for standardized outcome measures and evidence-based evaluations of third-party contracted services funded by TANF. This initiative will promote accountability and ensure that contracted services effectively support participants on their path to greater stability.</p> <p>DHS will also be required to submit annual reports to the Joint Budget Committee and publish key information on its website, promoting public accessibility and transparency.</p>

	<p>CCH believes that the bill's emphasis on standardized data collection, outcome measurement, and public transparency will significantly improve the Colorado Works Program's effectiveness. These improvements align with our mission to prevent homelessness and create lasting solutions for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Colorado, and we urge your support.</p>
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