

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0738.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 20-1122

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hooton, Bird

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Public Health Care & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE "COLORADO HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES ACT".

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill updates language in the "Colorado Homeless Youth Services Act" and establishes the services for youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness grant program (grant program) in the department of local affairs (department). The age requirement for such youth is increased to 24 years of age or younger from more than 11 years of age to less than 21 years of age. The department shall promulgate rules concerning the grant program, and the office of homeless youth services shall administer and monitor the grant program.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

The grant program consists of up to 5 awards of up to \$250,000 each awarded on or before January 1, 2021. Grant awards may only be awarded to existing providers of services to youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, with priority given to those service providers that can expand services to underserved areas of the state, including street and community outreach, drop-in centers, emergency shelters, and supportive housing and transitional living programs.

The bill requires the department to prepare and submit a report to the appropriate committees of the general assembly on the outcomes of the grant program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**
3 **with amendments,** 24-32-723 as follows:

4 **24-32-723. Office of homeless youth services - creation -**
5 **function - duties - grant program - report - rules - short title -**
6 **definitions - repeal.** (1) THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS SECTION IS THE
7 "COLORADO HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES ACT".

8 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
9 REQUIRES:

10 (a) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS.

11 (b) "ENTITY" MEANS ANY STATE AGENCY, STATE-OPERATED
12 PROGRAM, NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, OR PRIVATE
13 NONPROFIT.

14 (c) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES
15 ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (d) "SERVICE PROVIDER" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT PROVIDES
17 DIRECT SERVICES TO YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING
18 HOMELESSNESS. SERVICES MAY INCLUDE COMMUNITY OUTREACH, DROP-IN
19 CENTERS AND PROGRAMS, EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAMS, AND
20 INTEGRATED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAMS,

1 AS THOSE SERVICES ARE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(d) OF THIS
2 SECTION.

3 (e) "YOUTH AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS" MEANS A
4 PERSON TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER WHOSE STATUS OR
5 CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF EXPERIENCING
6 HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. STATUS OR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT
7 INDICATE SUCH A SIGNIFICANT RISK INCLUDE:

- 8 (I) TRANSITIONING FROM OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT;
- 9 (II) EXPERIENCING PREVIOUS HOMELESSNESS;
- 10 (III) HAVING PARENTS, LEGAL GUARDIANS, OR PRIMARY
11 CAREGIVERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY OR WERE PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCING
12 HOMELESSNESS;
- 13 (IV) EXPOSURE TO ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN THE HOME; OR
- 14 (V) EXPERIENCING CONFLICT WITH THE YOUTH'S PARENT OR LEGAL
15 GUARDIAN AS A RESULT OF A SUBSTANCE OR ALCOHOL DEPENDENCY, A
16 MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER, OR OTHER DISABILITY.

17 (f) "YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS" MEANS A PERSON
18 TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER WHO:

- 19 (I) IS UNACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, AND
20 SHELTER, APPROPRIATE CARE, OR SUPERVISION IS UNAVAILABLE;
- 21 (II) HAS A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WHO IS UNABLE OR
22 UNWILLING TO PROVIDE SHELTER, CARE, OR SUPERVISION;
- 23 (III) HAS A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WHO LACKS A FIXED,
24 REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE. A FIXED, REGULAR,
25 AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE DOES NOT INCLUDE:
 - 26 (A) AN INSTITUTION OR PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY OPERATED
27 SHELTER DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS;

1 (B) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING;

2 (C) A TEMPORARY PLACEMENT WITH A PEER, FRIEND, OR FAMILY
3 MEMBER WHO HAS NOT OFFERED PERMANENT RESIDENCE, A RESIDENTIAL
4 LEASE, OR TEMPORARY LODGING FOR MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS; OR

5 (D) A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PLACE NOT DESIGNED FOR, NOR
6 ORDINARILY USED AS, A REGULAR SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION FOR
7 HUMAN BEINGS.

8 (3)(a) THE OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES IS ESTABLISHED
9 IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING
10 INFORMATION, COORDINATION, AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO ENTITIES
11 SERVING THE YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING
12 HOMELESSNESS.

13 (b) THE GOALS OF THE OFFICE ARE TO:

14 (I) IDENTIFY AND REMOVE OBSTACLES TO THE PROVISION OF
15 SERVICES;

16 (II) IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO YOUTH
17 EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS;

18 (III) REDUCE NEEDLESS EXPENDITURES CAUSED BY THE PROVISION
19 OF OVERLAPPING SERVICES; AND

20 (IV) IDENTIFY HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FUNDING
21 RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ENTITIES SERVING YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT
22 RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

23 (c) TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF
24 THIS SECTION, THE OFFICE SHALL, AT A MINIMUM:

25 (I) PROVIDE INFORMATION, COORDINATION, AND TECHNICAL
26 ASSISTANCE AS NECESSARY TO REDUCE NEEDLESS EXPENDITURES
27 ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROVISION OF OVERLAPPING SERVICES AND TO

1 IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO YOUTH EXPERIENCING
2 OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS;

3 (II) IDENTIFY PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE OBSTACLES TO THE
4 PROVISION OF SERVICES AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
5 ENTITIES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION CONCERNING PROCEDURAL,
6 REGULATORY, OR STATUTORY CHANGES NECESSARY TO REMOVE SUCH
7 OBSTACLES;

8 (III) OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS
9 CONCERNING KNOWN SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR
10 AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND TO POST SUCH
11 INFORMATION ON THE OFFICE'S WEBSITE;

12 (IV) DEVELOP, MAINTAIN, AND MAKE AVAILABLE A LISTING OF ALL
13 RIGHTS AND ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANT TO YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT
14 RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, INCLUDING A LISTING OF LEGAL,
15 EDUCATIONAL, AND VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS;

16 (V) OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING KNOWN FUNDING
17 SOURCES AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF
18 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS; AND

19 (VI) WORK WITH ENTITIES TO IDENTIFY ISSUES CONCERNING
20 SHARING OF INFORMATION IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO YOUTH
21 EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND TO
22 FACILITATE RESOLUTION OF SUCH INFORMATION-SHARING ISSUES.

23 (d) IN PERFORMING ITS DUTIES, THE OFFICE IS STRONGLY
24 ENCOURAGED TO WORK WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
25 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, OR HIS OR HER
26 DESIGNEE; THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR COURT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE JUDICIAL
27 DEPARTMENT; PRIVATE NONPROFIT AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;

1 APPROPRIATE FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS; AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS
2 IN THE COMMUNITY.

3 (4) (a) THE SERVICES FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF
4 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS
5 SUBSECTION (4) AND SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION AS THE "GRANT
6 PROGRAM", IS ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE PURPOSE OF THE
7 GRANT PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO YOUTH WHO ARE
8 EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND TO
9 REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF HOMELESSNESS FOR THAT POPULATION. THE
10 GRANT PROGRAM SHALL AWARD UP TO FIVE GRANTS ON OR BEFORE
11 JANUARY 1, 2021, OF NO MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND
12 DOLLARS EACH TO EXISTING SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT DEMONSTRATE A
13 COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICES TO YOUTH EXPERIENCING
14 OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
15 AWARD GRANTS ONLY TO EXISTING PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE THE
16 SERVICES DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (4). GRANT AWARDS MAY BE
17 USED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND DIRECT
18 PROVISION OF SERVICES.

19 (b) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
20 PROMULGATE RULES CONCERNING THE APPLICATION PROCESS, TIMELINE,
21 AND ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD CRITERIA. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD
22 ALL GRANTS ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021. IN AWARDING THE GRANTS,
23 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO THOSE APPLICANTS THAT CAN
24 BETTER MEET STATEWIDE NEEDS, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS WHERE SERVICES
25 FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
26 HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ESTABLISHED.

27 (c) THE OFFICE SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM,

1 INCLUDING REVIEWING APPLICATIONS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS
2 TO THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING WHICH SERVICE PROVIDERS SHOULD
3 RECEIVE A GRANT. THE OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE
4 SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT RECEIVE GRANT AWARDS AND FOR COLLECTING
5 DATA CONCERNING SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH THE GRANT AWARDS.

6 (d) SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT PROVIDE ONE OR MORE OF THE
7 FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT AWARD:

8 (I) STREET AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND DROP-IN CENTERS. A
9 DROP-IN CENTER SHALL PROVIDE WALK-IN ACCESS TO CRISIS
10 INTERVENTION AND ONGOING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, INCLUDING
11 ONE-TO-ONE CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES ON A SELF-REFERRAL BASIS.
12 STREET AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS SHALL LOCATE,
13 CONTACT, AND PROVIDE INFORMATION, REFERRALS, AND SERVICES TO
14 YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.
15 INFORMATION, REFERRALS, AND SERVICES MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT
16 LIMITED TO:

- 17 (A) FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES;
- 18 (B) CONFLICT RESOLUTION OR MEDIATION COUNSELING;
- 19 (C) ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING TEMPORARY EMERGENCY SHELTER;
- 20 (D) ASSISTANCE WITH EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND
21 INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS;
- 22 (E) ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICAL CARE,
23 OR MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING;
- 24 (F) COUNSELING REGARDING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION,
25 AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE;
- 26 (G) REFERRALS TO OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS;
- 27 (H) AFTERCARE SERVICES;

1 (I) SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR HIGHLY VULNERABLE YOUTH WHO
2 ARE EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS,
3 INCLUDING TEEN PARENTS; YOUTH WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES;
4 SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH; LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, OR TRANSGENDER
5 YOUTH; YOUTH OF COLOR; OR YOUTH WHO ARE VICTIMS OF OR
6 EXPERIENCING HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

7 (J) HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES;

8 (II) EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAMS. AN EMERGENCY SHELTER
9 PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF
10 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH REFERRAL AND WALK-IN ACCESS TO
11 EMERGENCY SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL CARE. AN EMERGENCY SHELTER
12 PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF
13 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH SAFE, DIGNIFIED SHELTER, INCLUDING
14 PRIVATE SHOWER FACILITIES, BEDS, AND AT LEAST ONE MEAL EACH DAY.
15 SUCH PROGRAMS SHALL ASSIST A YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF
16 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY OR
17 LEGAL GUARDIAN WHEN REQUIRED OR APPROPRIATE. SERVICES AT
18 EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAMS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

19 (A) FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES;

20 (B) INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, AND GROUP COUNSELING;

21 (C) ASSISTANCE OBTAINING CLOTHING;

22 (D) ACCESS TO MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH
23 SERVICES;

24 (E) EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES;

25 (F) RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES;

26 (G) ADVOCACY AND REFERRAL SERVICES;

27 (H) INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING;

1 (I) AFTERCARE AND FOLLOW-UP SERVICES;
2 (J) TRANSPORTATION; AND
3 (K) HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES;
4 (III) SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAMS.
5 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAMS SHALL HELP
6 YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FIND
7 AND MAINTAIN SAFE, DIGNIFIED HOUSING. A SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND
8 TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM MAY ALSO PROVIDE RENTAL ASSISTANCE
9 AND RELATED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES OR REFER YOUTH TO OTHER SERVICE
10 PROVIDERS. SERVICES PROVIDED MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
11 (A) EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AND REFERRALS TO EDUCATIONAL
12 PROGRAMS;
13 (B) CAREER PLANNING, EMPLOYMENT, WORK, AND INDEPENDENT
14 LIVING SKILLS TRAINING;
15 (C) JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES;
16 (D) BUDGETING AND MONEY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE;
17 (E) ASSISTANCE IN SECURING PERMANENT HOUSING THAT IS
18 APPROPRIATE TO THE YOUTH'S NEEDS AND INCOME;
19 (F) COUNSELING REGARDING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION,
20 AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE;
21 (G) REFERRALS FOR HEALTH CARE OR ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCE
22 DEPENDENCY SERVICES;
23 (H) PARENTING SKILLS EDUCATION;
24 (I) AFTERCARE AND FOLLOW-UP SERVICES; AND
25 (J) HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES.
26 (e) THIS SUBSECTION (4) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.
27 (5) (a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL

1 PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES
2 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HEALTH AND
3 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
4 COMMITTEES, A REPORT TO SUMMARIZE THE STATUS OF YOUTH
5 EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND THE
6 IMPACT OF THE GRANT PROGRAM ON SUCH YOUTH. THE REPORT MUST
7 INCLUDE:

8 (I) A LIST OF THE AREAS OF THE STATE, PRE- AND POST-GRANT
9 PROGRAM, WITH THE GREATEST NEED FOR SERVICES, INCLUDING HOUSING,
10 AND THE LEVEL AND NATURE OF SUCH NEEDS;

11 (II) A LIST OF GRANT RECIPIENTS AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH
12 GRANT;

13 (III) THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT MONEY THROUGHOUT THE
14 STATE BASED ON POPULATION NEEDS;

15 (IV) ANY AVAILABLE FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION, EXCLUDING ANY
16 PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION, ON ANY YOUTH WHO RECEIVED
17 SERVICES THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM; AND

18 (V) ANY OTHER PERTINENT OUTCOMES FOR THE POPULATIONS
19 SERVED TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM.

20 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1-120, **amend** (5)
22 introductory portion; and **repeal** (5)(i) as follows:

23 **24-1-120. Department of human services - creation.** (5) The
24 department of human services ~~shall include~~ INCLUDES the following:

25 (i) ~~The office of homeless youth services, created by article 5.9 of~~
26 ~~title 26, C.R.S. Said office and its powers, duties, and functions are~~
27 ~~transferred by a type 2 transfer to the department of human services.~~

1 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
4 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.