



*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 Supportive Services HB18-1310: Sponsored by Representative James Coleman and Senator Rhonda Fields**

### **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 pilot program in the Department of Local Affairs’ Division of Local Government 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 10 rural counties and a small number of the most impoverished and economically distressed zip-codes within Pueblo, Arapahoe, Adams and Denver counties.**
- 3. Appropriate \$687,500 for FY2018-2019, from the General Fund to fund this pilot program. The General Assembly will fund this pilot project for two years thereafter. The pilot program terminates September 21, 2021.**
- 4. 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.**

### **For more information:**

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## Supporting Organizations

### Adult Education Providers

Montrose Adult Education Center

The Durango Adult Education  
Center (DAEC)

### Advocacy Organizations

All Families Deserve a Chance  
Coalition (AFDC)

The Bell Policy Center

Colorado Catholic Conference

Colorado Center on Law and Policy  
(CCLP)

Colorado Cross Disability Coalition  
(CCDC)

Conejos Clean Water (*Antonito*)

Good Business Colorado

People's Advocacy Council

Small Business Majority

Women's Foundation of Colorado

Young Invincibles

### Businesses

Durango Compost Company

Effect Communications, Inc.

Golden Real Estate, Inc.

Nuance Chocolate

Margaux's Bookkeeping, Inc.

MobilizeUS

Optimum Home Team, LLC.

Organic India USA

Product Architects Inc.

Progressive Promotions

Share Good Foods

Soul Salve

The Denver Game Lounge, LLC.

Venner Consulting

### Disability Employment Service Organizations

Association of Colorado Centers for  
Independent Living (ACCIL)

Atlantis Community, Inc.

Center for Independence (*Grand  
Junction, Glenwood Springs,  
Montrose*)

Southwest Center for  
Independence (*Durango, Cortez*)

The Independence Center in  
Colorado Springs

### Faith Based Employment and Service Organizations

Catholic Charities of Central  
Colorado

Catholic Charities of Denver

Catholic Charities of Pueblo

St. Francis Center

### Non-Profit Employment Service Organizations

Bayaud Enterprises

Bridge House

Colfax Community Network

Colorado Coalition for the  
Homeless

Colorado Homebuilding Academy

Comitis Crisis Center

CWEE

DenverWorks

Emily Griffith Technical College

Family Tree

Jewish Family Service of Colorado

Loaves & Fishes Ministry of  
Fremont County

Metro Caring

Mi Casa Resource Center

Mile High Behavioral Healthcare

Mile High WorkShop

Posada of Pueblo

Spring Institute for Intercultural  
Learning

SUCAP/The Training Advantage  
(*Ignacio*)

The Abraham Connection (*Delta*)

The Center for Work Ethic  
Development

The Reciprocity Collective

Urban Peak

Women's Bean Project

WorkLife Partnership

**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.

Samantha's 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.

