



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 March 6, 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.

Chaer Robert
Family Economic Security Program Director
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
crobert@cclonline.org
(303)573-5669x307

Diana Protopapa
Contract Lobbyist Frontline Public Affairs
diana@frontlinepublicaffairs.com
(303) 810-3708

Current Endorsers of this bill:

9to5 Colorado

All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition (AFDC)

Association of Centers for Independent Living (ACCIL)

Bayaud Enterprises

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Pueblo

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP)

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Colorado Cross Disability Coalition (CCDC)

CommunityWorks

Cross Purpose

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

Women's Lobby of Colorado

Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning

Volunteers of America Colorado Branch

Young Invincibles

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.

