

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0762	Date: February 6, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Newell	Bill Status: Senate SVMA
Rep. Pettersen	Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: FOSTERING SUCCESS COLLABORATIVE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
Cash Funds	Potential increase - gifts, grants, and donations.	
State Expenditures	<u>\$140,510</u>	<u>\$95,282</u>
General Fund**	129,635	82,860
Centrally Appropriated Costs***	10,875	12,422
FTE Position Change	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE
Appropriation Required: \$129,635 - Department of Higher Education (FY 2015-16)		

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

** At this time, no source of gifts, grants, and donations have been identified, so the fiscal note assumes costs are paid from the General Fund.

*** These costs are not included in the bill's appropriation. See the State Expenditures section for more information.

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Fostering Success Collaborative (the collaborative) in the Department of Higher Education (DHE) as part of the College in Colorado program. The collaborative is a multi-organizational initiative created to plan and promote services for youths involved in the foster care system, with the goal of helping them achieve educational and career success. The collaborative is required to accomplish certain tasks, including creating various plans and preparing a report of recommendations by January 31, 2016. Among other things, the collaborative is required to create a plan for long- and short-term actions and recommendations for statewide accessibility to various supports and services for foster youth, including scholarship programs, training and mentoring opportunities, and other supports to help youths live independently.

Institutions of higher education in Colorado are allowed to create Fostering Success programs on their campuses that provide services and academic advising for eligible students over the age of 13 who are currently or were previously in foster care. The bill sets forth the guidelines and requirements for these campus programs. The bill also creates a cash fund for the program and allows the DHE to receive gifts, grants, and donations to support the collaborative. Funds in the program cash fund are continuously appropriated to the DHE.

State Revenue

The bill may result in cash fund revenue from gifts, grants, and donations to the newly created Fostering Success Collaborative Cash Fund in the DHE. At this time, no source of funding has been identified.

State Expenditures

The bill increases costs in the DHE, as shown in Table 1, for a staff person to coordinate the activities of the collaborative, prepare reports and plans, and other tasks. The DHE will also have costs to create a website for use by the public, institutions of higher education, and others. Additional details on these costs are provided below.

Table 1. Expenditures Under SB 15-131		
Cost Components	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
Personal Services	\$47,067	\$51,345
FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	5,653	950
Website Development	61,800	15,450
Travel	10,115	10,115
Printing	5,000	5,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	10,875	12,422
TOTAL	\$140,510	\$95,282

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Staffing and operational costs. To conduct the required duties and coordinate the activities of the collaborative, 1.0 FTE is required beginning in FY 2015-16. These costs are prorated in Table 1 to reflect the General Fund paydate shift. Standard operating and capital outlay expenses are also included in the costs estimate above. Travel costs are estimated at \$10,115 per year for mileage and per diem for the staff person to travel to institutions of higher education and hold collaborative meetings. Printing of educational and promotional material are estimated at \$5,000 per year.

Website costs. It is assumed that the DHE will have costs for the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to create and maintain a website for the collaborative. This website will host information on meetings, reports by the collaborative, and other information. These costs are estimated at \$61,800 in the first year and \$15,450 per year thereafter for maintenance. The estimated cost assumes a standard OIT rate of \$103 per hour and 600 hours of development time to create the site and 150 hours of annual maintenance.

Costs for institutions of higher education. The bill will increase costs for institutions that create a Fostering Success program on their campus. Costs will vary by institution, based on how they structure their programs and the new or existing resources that are made available to serve eligible youths.

Other state agency costs. Other agencies such as the Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Education, and the Department of Labor and Employment will have an increase in workload for staff to participate on the collaborative. It is assumed this workload will be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriate in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. The centrally appropriated costs subject to this policy are estimated in the fiscal note for informational purposes and summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Centrally Appropriated Costs Under SB15-131*		
Cost Components	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$7,227	\$8,028
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	3,648	4,394
TOTAL	\$10,875	\$12,422

*More information is available at: <http://colorado.gov/fiscalnotes>

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2015-16, the bill requires an appropriation of \$129,635 to the Department of Higher Education and an allocation of 0.9 FTE. Of this amount, \$61,800 is reappropriated to the Office of Information Technology.

State and Local Government Contacts

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