



COLORADO

Department of Local Affairs

Priority: R-01
Colorado Choice Transitions Funding Deficit
FY 2019-20 Funding Request

Cost and FTE

- The Department requests \$1,693,126 General Fund in FY 2019-20 and ongoing to maintain funding for housing vouchers that enable clients to transition from living in institutions or nursing facilities back into the community, which is supported by the Colorado Choice Transitions (CCT) program. This request represents a 65% increase in funding for CCT vouchers.

Current Program

- The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and the Department have partnered since FY 2014-15 to provide housing vouchers for 225 persons with disabilities that require long-term services to transition out of nursing facilities.
- House Bill 18-1326 established the CCT program permanently in HCPF and expanded it by increasing the number of transition coordination service providers.
- The CCT program supports Colorado's Community Living Plan ('Olmstead Plan') and is aligned with the tenets of HCPF's Triple Aim Program which states, in part, that living in the community is a less costly alternative to institutionalization.

Problem or Opportunity

- The cost of funding CCT vouchers has grown significantly since FY 2014-15 due to an unprecedented increase in rents. In FY 2014-15, the cost to fund one CCT voucher was \$6,005 per client. By the end of FY 2017-18, the cost to fund one CCT voucher increased to \$9,024 and the estimated cost per voucher for FY 2019-20 is \$11,840.
- Additionally, with the passage of H.B. 18-1326, the Department estimates that HCPF will increase referrals to the CCT program by an additional 138 for FY 2019-20.
- The Department's FY 2019-20 budget request includes \$2,604,765 for CCT vouchers, which includes \$1,705,125 intended for the initial 225 vouchers (but due to rent increases falls short), plus an additional \$899,640 appropriated for the program by H.B. 18-1326. Even with the funding from H.B.18-1326, the Department can fund only 220 vouchers instead of the estimated 363 needed.

Consequences of Problem

- Without additional funding for CCT vouchers that allow individuals with disabilities to live in their own home, many program clients face a significant risk of extended stays or permanent placement in a nursing facility.
- Failure to fund this request could also result in non-compliance with the State's Olmstead Plan and could potentially lead to litigation.

Proposed Solution

- The Department requests \$1,693,126 General Fund to continue funding vouchers for CCT program clients, which is critical for compliance with the State's Olmstead Plan and to take advantage of HCPF's improved transition coordination. The request is ongoing.
- According to the fiscal analysis for H.B. 18-1326, HCPF estimates that the cost of providing services to aid in clients' transition and to keep them living a stable life in the community will be roughly \$17,000 less per person than the cost to keep them in a nursing home for one year. These savings will compound over time as more people are able to transition into community living.



Cost and FTE

- To fulfill the requirements of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (H.B. 18-1394), the Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) requires an appropriation in FY 2019-20 of \$249,454 General Fund for a program manager and two community and economic development specialists.

Current Program

- In response to the 2013 floods, the Governor's Office created the Colorado Resiliency and Recovery Office under Executive Order D 2013-027 to coordinate long-term recovery efforts on behalf of the Governor's Office, to connect communities with state and federal resources, and to support communities to reduce the impacts of future disasters. In late 2017, the Office was transferred to the Department through an Interagency Agreement with the Governor's Office utilizing the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF) under Executive Order D 2013-026.
- House Bill 18-1394 permanently established the CRO in the Department to lead long-term recovery efforts from disasters and create, maintain, and implement resiliency and community recovery programs.

Problem or Opportunity

- House Bill 18-1394 codified a core function of Colorado's disaster response activities: long-term disaster recovery and rebuilding with focus on resilience in preparation for future disasters. Today, the CRO is relied on during every disaster to coordinate statewide interagency long-term recovery efforts. However, the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act stipulates that the CRO exist contingent upon the availability of grant funding – no stable financial commitment to this core function has been made by the State.
- Funding from the DEF will expire on June 30, 2019 and result in closure of the CRO. The use of grant funds as a method for funding this core statewide function means there are limited dollars available for recovery and resilience work to support communities.

Consequences of Problem

- As Colorado's population continues to grow, local exposure to losses from natural disasters will also continue to increase. The State's population with a wildland-urban interface is projected to triple by 2030. The CRO creates, maintains, and implements the State's resiliency and community disaster recovery program. This includes coordinating community and economic recovery efforts across multiple agencies following disaster events and supporting risk and vulnerability reduction efforts across Colorado before and after disasters occur. These core functions will no longer exist after June 30, 2019, when funding for the CRO expires under an Interagency Agreement.

Proposed Solution

- The Department proposes to fully fund Colorado's core long-term disaster recovery and resiliency planning services beginning July 1, 2019, and remove the requirement that the CRO exist solely on the basis of grant funding as stipulated in Sections 24-32-121 and 24-32-122 (4), C.R.S.
- The National Institute for Building Sciences estimates that every \$1 invested in risk reduction results in \$6 saved in future disaster costs. The greatest success of the Office will be quantified when a future disaster occurs and thoughtful resilience measures implemented after a previous disaster recovery have reduced impacts in a community.



Cost and FTE

- The Department requests \$57,800 in Reappropriated Funds for 0.7 FTE in FY 2019-20 and \$73,636 in Reappropriated Funds for 1.0 FTE in FY 2020-21 and beyond to assume oversight of all Medicaid-funded home modifications over \$2,500 on behalf of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF).

Current Program

- The Home Modification Program is a Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) benefit that allows for specific modifications, adaptation, or improvements to an eligible client's existing home setting to enable the member to function with greater independence in the home and prevent their institutionalization.
- HCPF and the Department partner to oversee the Home Modification Program for four distinct waiver populations: the Elderly, Blind, & Disabled; Community Mental Health Supports; Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury. The Department's Division of Housing (DOH) currently receives funding from HCPF to support 2.0 FTE that approve all projects over \$2,500 for these populations.
- Community-Centered Boards (CCBs) currently approve home modifications up to \$10,000 for Child Extensive Support (CES) and Supported Living Services (SLS) waiver clients. Determinations regarding compliance vary according to internal processes managed by each CCB.

Problem or Opportunity

- Overseeing home modifications requires a specialized skill set that is typically outside of that of a CCB case manager. Rather than undertake a challenging and inefficient training process for CCB staff across the state, HCPF has requested to transfer oversight of home modifications for CES and SLS clients to the Department since the DOH has the expertise and experience to ensure compliance with rules, project quality standards, and person-centered service planning.
- HCPF has less oversight of the approval process for CCBs, which increases the risk of unauthorized purchases. If improper authorizations provided by CCBs were uncovered through an audit, this would be grounds for a federal disallowance by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This would be disruptive to both the State and service population.

Consequences of Problem

- If this request is not approved, HCPF would continue to have less oversight and transparency related to approvals for CES and SLS waiver home modifications due to the differences in the expertise and compliance policies of the CCBs. Such inconsistencies could result in federal disallowances by CMS.

Proposed Solution

- The Department requests \$57,800 in Reappropriated Funds for 0.7 FTE in FY 2019-20 (\$73,636 and 1.0 FTE ongoing) to enable DOH to oversee and approve home modifications for CES and SLS waiver clients.
- Full oversight of this benefits program by the Department would improve the consistency and quality of approved home modifications, promote transparency, increase client satisfaction, and lower the risk of improper authorizations and inappropriate spending.



Cost and FTE

- The Department requests \$300,000 General Fund in FY 2019-20 for temporary resources to promote participation in Census 2020.

Current Program

- The federal Census is the largest peacetime mobilization that the country conducts each decade with all levels of government and citizenry needed to count every person living in the United States. The complete count is critical for reapportionment, redistricting, federal per capita funding to Colorado, and the statewide planning efforts of almost every department in the State.
- There is no State program established to promote participation in Census 2020; however, the Department's State Demography Office is traditionally the primary State office that collaborates with the Census Bureau and has been actively preparing Colorado for Census 2020.

Problem or Opportunity

- The importance of Census 2020 necessitates that Colorado develop and implement a temporary communication and outreach program that includes engagement of 335 local governments and other agencies to support the completion of an accurate count.
- Approximately \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities nationwide each year based on population data established through the federal census. Of this, Colorado receives roughly \$8 billion which is estimated at \$1,400 per person. Every person not counted in Colorado could mean a loss of per capita funding.
- It is estimated that the State's population grew by 578,000 people from 2010 to 2017. Funding efforts to promote participation in Census 2020 and to support local communities will greatly increase the likelihood that the State's population is accurately collected.

Consequences of Problem

- Census data is utilized to bring federal resources to Colorado for those most in need. To ensure adequate federal funding of programs such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Community Development Block Grants, and Community Service Block Grants, it is critical that people living in Colorado are aware of the value of participating in Census 2020.
- Census data is the basis for funding public infrastructure including road rehabilitation and construction. Emergency food and shelter programs often use Census data to ensure availability of resources for public safety. Population data is also used for apportionment and Colorado could gain another Congressional seat with an accurate count.

Proposed Solution

- The Department requests a one-time appropriation of \$300,000 General Fund for FY 2019-20. Of this amount, \$52,000 will fund a full-time program assistant for nine months to provide operational support. The remaining \$248,000 will fund marketing and communications to educate, engage, and encourage people to respond to the Census questionnaire.
- A coordinated statewide communications and outreach effort will give Colorado the opportunity to develop and leverage material to educate its population about the importance of the Census and drive participation.



COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs

Priority: R-05
Housing Assistance for Reentry Population
FY 2019-20 Funding Request

Cost and FTE

- In FY 2019-20, the Department is requesting \$408,052 in spending authority from the Housing Assistance for Persons Transitioning from the Criminal or Juvenile Justice System Cash Fund ("Cash Fund"). This request is made pursuant to the provisions of S.B. 18-016.

Current Program

- The Cash Fund and the associated Long Bill line item were established by S.B. 17-021. This legislation instituted a housing services program for persons with mental illness transitioning from the criminal or juvenile justice systems.
- Pursuant to S.B. 18-016, the Cash Fund is funded through ongoing transfers of unexpended General Fund dollars appropriated to the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for community corrections programs and services.

Problem or Opportunity

- While S.B. 18-016 allows the Cash Fund to receive the ongoing transfers, the legislation requires the Department to request spending authority from the Cash Fund through the annual legislative budget process. As such, the Department is submitting this request as part of its FY 2019-20 budget submission.
- Both pieces of legislation were the result of work by the members of the Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems during the summers of 2016 and 2017.

Consequences of Problem

- Failure to approve this request will prevent the State from utilizing the funds transferred from DPS to the Cash Fund and the original policy objectives of S.B. 17-021 will not be implemented. This will hamper the State's ability to address mental illness in the homeless population throughout Colorado.

Proposed Solution

- The Department requests that the \$408,052 deposited into the Cash Fund at the end of FY 2017-18 is appropriated to the line item in the Division of Housing entitled 'Housing Assistance for Persons Transitioning from Criminal or Juvenile Justice Systems' for the purposes of implementing the objectives of S.B. 17-021.



Cost and FTE

- To help achieve the objectives of the Lifelong Colorado Initiative, the Department is requesting \$485,959 General Fund and 0.9 FTE in FY 2019-20 to increase the State's age-friendly strategic planning and implementation resources for local communities. The request annualizes to \$486,386 and 1.0 FTE beginning in FY 2020-21.

Current Program

- The objective of the Lifelong Colorado Initiative is to educate, encourage, and support communities as they develop and implement their own age-friendly strategies. This initiative will partner with many agencies including the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in order to leverage additional support through their Age-Friendly Communities program.

Problem or Opportunity

- Colorado's aging population is projected to grow at a rapid pace through 2030 – an increase of 77%. With this trend, communities are struggling to plan for and mitigate the impacts to transportation, health care, housing, local government revenues, and increased demand for services.
- The opportunity exists to make Colorado a more age-friendly state; however, the Department currently lacks the capacity to provide assistance to communities who are trying to find creative solutions to address these issues.
- There seems to be a strong and growing consensus among aging experts and researchers that policies and strategies associated with age-friendly communities often increase overall quality of life while extending the lives and reducing health care costs for many residents.

Consequences of Problem

- Older Coloradans leave their native communities when barriers like homes, transportation systems, business districts, social engagement networks, and walkable neighborhoods become too great. Without a focus on aging in place, Colorado's aging population will experience a decline in health, decreased mobility, increased isolation, increased health care costs, and an overall diminished quality of life. These negative impacts will result in increased costs to Colorado.

Proposed Solution

- The request includes \$216,000 for technical consultants, \$200,000 for a grant program to help participant communities with planning and implementing community improvement efforts, and \$69,959 for 1.0 FTE to administer the program. With these resources, the Department will leverage existing efforts in other agencies to assist communities statewide on these issues.
- This initiative will also provide a statewide umbrella of resources for communities to develop and implement strategies. With consultant support, the Department and the Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging will work with partners to identify and promote best-practices, empower, and facilitate local and regional efforts, and coordinate public information strategies.