



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 April 4, 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.

Current Endorsers of this bill:

9to5 Colorado
All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition (AFDC)
Association of Centers for Independent Living (ACCIL)
Bayaud Enterprises
Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness at University of Denver
Bell Policy Center
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
Del Norte Neighborhood Development Center
Denver Marriott Tech Center
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown
Emergency Family Assistance Association
Emily Griffith Foundation
Emily Griffith Technical College
Good Business Colorado
KJM Consulting LLC
L&R Pallet Service
Mental Health Center of Denver
Mental Health Partners
Mi Casa Resource Center
National Skills Coalition
People's Advocacy Council
Remerg
Sage Hospitality
Second Chance Center
Servicios de la Raza
Sheraton Denver Tech Center
Skills2Compete-Colorado
Southern Colorado Community Action Agency, Inc. (SoCoCAA)
Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
The Empowerment Program
United for a New Economy
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch
Women's Foundation of Colorado
Women's Lobby of Colorado
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.

