

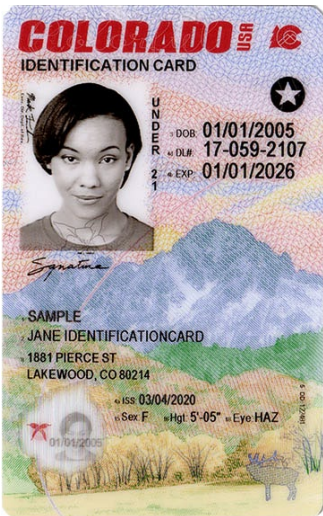
SUPPORT SB24-XXX

Strengthen the Colorado Necessary Documents Program

Colorado's Necessary Documents Program/CO ID Project pays for vouchers for free identification documents (e.g., driver's license, state ID card, etc.) for residents who are victims of domestic violence, impacted by a natural disaster, low-income, disabled, experiencing homelessness, or elderly and are seeking documentation of their identity, status, or citizenship.

The cost of these ID documents can be prohibitive for some people, and without them, residents cannot open bank accounts, access health care, housing, employment, or public benefits.

Note: The Colorado Necessary Documents program does NOT refer to the State ID Program through the Department of Corrections.



This program is important for:

- People who lose documents in floods, fires, and other natural disasters
- Domestic violence victims who leave documents behind when fleeing their homes
- Seniors who may have never been issued a birth certificate because they were born at home
- People experiencing homelessness, who have documents stolen or displaced
- People new to Colorado, who only have out-of-state ID documents
- People needing new documents due to a marriage or divorce

The Problem:

The Necessary Documents Program was made permanent by SB21-018 and is currently funded at \$300,000 per year from the Colorado's General Fund. The current funding falls short of meeting the true need. Social service providers routinely run out of vouchers to distribute to clients in need, and in some cases spend thousands covering the costs out of pocket. The program also poses administrative challenges, including the complicated program structure, delayed voucher transfers, and rigid identity verification standards. Additionally, vouchers are time-limited, remaining valid for only 30 days after distribution to a client, making the utilization rate extremely low, at roughly 30%.

The Solution:

1. Eliminate the need for a physical voucher, allowing eligible individuals to access ID documents directly at the point of service and
2. Increase funding appropriated from \$300,000 to \$900,000 to better meet the true need.

Endorsing Organizations



Alianza NORCO
All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition
Catholic Charities
Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Colorado Center for Aging
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Common Cause
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Colorado Lawyers Committee
Colorado Poverty Law Project

Congressional Research Institute
for Social Work and Policy
Disabled Resource Services
Enterprise Community Partners
Family Housing Network of Fort Collins, Inc.
Grand Valley Peace and Justice
HAAT Force South Metro
Harm Reduction Action Center
Homeward Alliance
Hunger Free Colorado
Impact Charitable
We Don't Waste

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