



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0633
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Jodeh, Sen. Gonzales

Date: September 20, 2021
Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: CREATE THE COLORADO OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

This bill creates the Office of New Americans in the Department of Labor and Employment. It increases state revenue and expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required as costs are paid from gifts, grants, and donations which the bill permits CDLE to expend.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 21-1150

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2021-22, and Out Year FY 2022-23. Rows include Revenue (Gifts, Grants, Donations, Total Revenue), Expenditures (Gifts, Grants, Donations, Centrally Appropriated, Total Expenditures, Total FTE), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates the Office of New Americans (ONA), initially in the Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). Among the duties specified in the bill, the ONA is required to:

- convene stakeholders and state agencies to develop a recommendation to the Governor's Office about where the Colorado Refugee Services Program should be located;
- provide a draft recommendation on the program's location to the Governor by January 1, 2022, and a final recommendation within a year of the bill's effective date;
- coordinate with the Colorado Refugee Services Program to align it with the goals of the ONA; and
- implement a statewide strategy to facilitate economic stability and promote successful economic, social, linguistic, and cultural integration by investing in the success of immigrants in Colorado.

The director of the ONA has regular access to the Governor's Office and has the power to convene other state agencies. The ONA will report to the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, on the operations of the ONA during the prior fiscal year. The ONA may seek, accept, and expend gifts, grant, or donations from private or public sources. The bill includes activities that the ONA may undertake and promote if funding is available.

The CDLE will report on the ONA in its SMART Act hearing and a change in the location of the Colorado Refugee Services Program may be considered at that time.

Background

Colorado Refugee Services Program. The Colorado Refugee Services Program is located in the Office of Economic Security in the Department of Human Services (DHS) and funded under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The program provides cash and medical assistance, refugee social services, and support in resettlement. Between 1980 and 2000, nearly 63,000 individuals eligible for refugee services moved to Colorado.

New Americans Initiative. In November 2019, Governor Polis announced the addition of a position of New American advisor, co-housed at CDLE and the Governor's Office. Working with executive agencies and stakeholders, the New Americans Initiative has identified priority projects in the categories of economic development, access, education and outreach, and sustainability. The initiative is supported by a grant through the Governor's Office.

State Revenue

This bill will increase revenue from gifts, grants, and donations, which are assumed to be at least \$238,689 in FY 2021-22 and \$291,182 in FY 2022-23. The Governor's Office has been receiving a grant from the Silicon Valley Foundation in the amount of \$145,000 per year, which is expected to be renewed for at least one more year. This grant will fund the ONA Director, who will seek other funding sources to cover additional staffing. This revenue is not subject to TABOR.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase grant funded expenditures for the ONA in the CDLE by \$238,689 and 2.4 FTE in FY 2021-22 and \$291,182 and 3.0 FTE in FY 2022-23. These costs are shown in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 21-1150

Cost Components	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Department of Labor and Employment		
Personal Services	\$176,848	\$235,797
Operating Expenses	\$3,240	\$4,050
Capital Outlay Costs	\$18,600	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$40,001	\$51,335
Total	\$238,689	\$291,182
Total FTE	2.4 FTE	3.0 FTE

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

Department of Labor and Employment. CDLE staff will establish and administer the ONA, which will expand the integration efforts of the New Americans Initiative. Costs for FY 2021-22 are prorated to October 1, 2021, to account for the bill's effective date. These costs are funded with gifts, grants, and donations, which the bill allows the CDLE to expend; no appropriation is required.

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 appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are estimated to be \$40,001 in FY 2021-22 and \$51,335 in FY 2022-23.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 25, 2021, and it took September 7, 2021.

State and Local Government Contacts

Human Services

Information Technology

Labor