

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-1001.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

HOUSE BILL 22-1377

---

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Woodrow and Exum,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kolker and Gonzales,

---

House Committees

Transportation & Local Government

Senate Committees

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE CONNECTING COLORADANS  
102 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH SERVICES, TREATMENT,  
103 AND HOUSING SUPPORTS GRANT PROGRAM.

---

Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

The bill creates the connecting Coloradans experiencing homelessness with services, treatment, and housing supports grant program (grant program), administered by the division of housing (division) in the department of local affairs (department).

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

The grant program provides grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to enable those entities to make investments and improvements in their communities or regions of the state to address and respond to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

The bill requires the division to develop policies, procedures, and guidelines governing the administration of the grant program. The bill specifies how grant funding is to be awarded and the eligible uses of grant money awarded under the grant program. The bill specifies requirements for grant recipients.

The bill creates the connecting Coloradans experiencing homelessness with services, treatment, and housing supports fund (fund) in the department. The bill specifies requirements pertaining to the administration of the fund. The bill requires a transfer of \$105 million from the economic recovery and relief cash fund to the fund to administer the grant program.

The bill sets forth specified reporting requirements pertaining to the grant program.

The bill requires the department, in conjunction with the department of health care policy and financing, to report to the house of representatives public and behavioral health and human services committee and the senate health and human services committee, and to its committee of reference during its "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act" hearing, any results, recommendations, and federal implications concerning any supportive housing pilot program currently being administered by the department in conjunction with the department of health care policy and financing.

The bill requires the division to report on the activities of the grant program as part of the regular annual public report prepared by the division on affordable and emergency housing spending.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds, determines, and declares that:

4 (a) The state of Colorado is focused on supporting communities  
5 to create proven responses to homelessness that are designed to connect  
6 people without stable housing to services, care, and housing to help  
7 ensure that when homelessness occurs, it is rare and brief, and that no one  
8 gets left behind;

1 (b) The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated Colorado's  
2 homelessness and behavioral health crisis. Many communities do not  
3 have sufficient responses to address housing and behavioral health needs  
4 for their community members.

5 (c) People experiencing homelessness with chronic behavioral  
6 health issues face many challenges in accessing long-term treatment and  
7 are far more likely to receive care in hospital emergency departments.  
8 Without trained and dedicated providers or advocates, people  
9 experiencing homelessness often end up in a cycle of expensive treatment  
10 with little or no follow-up.

11 (d) Housing and support services are crucial for the safety, health,  
12 and well-being of Coloradans. Extensive research shows that housing is  
13 an essential social determinant of health. Stable housing improves health  
14 outcomes and decreases health-care costs.

15 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the general assembly to facilitate  
16 investments in local communities across the state of Colorado to quickly  
17 connect people experiencing homelessness with services, treatment, and  
18 temporary and permanent housing to put them on a path to economic  
19 self-sufficiency.

20 (3) The general assembly further finds and declares that the grant  
21 program described in this act is an important government service.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-32-726 as  
23 follows:

24 **24-32-726. Connecting Coloradans experiencing homelessness**  
25 **with services, treatment, and housing supports grant program -**  
26 **funding - report - definitions - repeal. (1) Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS  
27 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

1 (a) "COMMUNITY PARTNER" MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
2 THAT UNDERTAKES ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES OR SERVICES DESCRIBED IN  
3 SUBSECTION (2)(c) OF THIS SECTION.

4 (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS.

5 (c) "ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT" MEANS A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR A  
6 COMMUNITY PARTNER THAT APPLIES FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE GRANT  
7 PROGRAM.

8 (d) "FUND" MEANS THE CONNECTING COLORADANS EXPERIENCING  
9 HOMELESSNESS WITH SERVICES, TREATMENT, AND HOUSING SUPPORTS  
10 FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (e) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE CONNECTING COLORADANS  
12 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH SERVICES, TREATMENT, AND HOUSING  
13 SUPPORTS GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS  
14 SECTION.

15 (f) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS A COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, CITY  
16 AND COUNTY, TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, SPECIAL DISTRICT ORGANIZED  
17 PURSUANT TO TITLE 32, SCHOOL DISTRICT, DISTRICT, HOUSING AUTHORITY,  
18 COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
19 ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO TITLE 30, OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL  
20 SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE.

21 (g) "MATCH" MEANS MONETARY AND NONMONETARY  
22 CONTRIBUTIONS TO A PROJECT.

23 (2) **Creation of the grant program - projects or programs**  
24 **eligible for funding.** (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DIVISION THE  
25 CONNECTING COLORADANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH  
26 SERVICES, TREATMENT, AND HOUSING SUPPORTS GRANT PROGRAM TO  
27 PROVIDE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS TO ENABLE THEM TO MAKE

1 INVESTMENTS OR IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES OR REGIONS OF  
2 THE STATE TO:

3 (I) QUICKLY CONNECT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS TO  
4 SERVICES, TREATMENT, AND TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT HOUSING IN  
5 ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION; AND

6 (II) ENSURE COLORADO HAS A COMMUNITY-BASED CONTINUUM OF  
7 RESPONSES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, INCLUDING  
8 EMERGENCY SHELTERS, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, RECOVERY CARE AND  
9 RELATED RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS, AND PERMANENT HOUSING WITH  
10 WRAPAROUND SERVICES.

11 (b) THE DIVISION SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM.

12 (c) THE DIVISION MAY AWARD GRANTS UNDER THE GRANT  
13 PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS IN PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS  
14 THAT:

15 (I) PROVIDE GAP FINANCING FOR THE PURCHASE OR CONVERSION  
16 OF UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTIES IN COMMUNITIES WHERE EFFORTS HAVE  
17 BEEN MADE TO ENCOURAGE CONVERSION OF UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTIES  
18 INTO TRANSITIONAL OR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING THAT PROVIDES  
19 WRAPAROUND SERVICES;

20 (II) PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES SO LONG AS THE SUPPORTIVE  
21 SERVICES MEET THE GRANT PROGRAM GOALS OUTLINED IN SUBSECTION (4)  
22 OF THIS SECTION. SUCH SUPPORTIVE SERVICES INCLUDE THOSE DESCRIBED  
23 IN 42 CFR 578.53 AND THOSE DETERMINED BY THE DIVISION. FUNDS MAY  
24 BE USED TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
25 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OR AS  
26 STANDALONE SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED TO AN INDIVIDUAL THROUGH  
27 A SERVICE PROVIDER.

1 (III) INVEST IN DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND ANALYSIS  
2 PROCESSES AND EXPAND OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS TO  
3 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, PARTICULARLY UNSHELTERED  
4 HOMELESSNESS, TO UNDERSTAND THE SCALE OF THE NEED THROUGHOUT  
5 THE STATE AND WHETHER THE ACTIVITIES AND INVESTMENTS THROUGH  
6 THIS GRANT PROGRAM ARE EFFECTIVE AT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF  
7 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS;

8 (IV) SUPPORT COORDINATION SYSTEMS TO HELP CONNECT PEOPLE  
9 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT BEST  
10 FIT THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS; AND

11 (V) FUND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND HOMELESS  
12 RESPONSE PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

13 (A) EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTERS;

14 (B) TRANSITIONAL AND BRIDGE HOUSING;

15 (C) LONG-TERM HOUSING;

16 (D) PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING WITH SUPPORTIVE  
17 SERVICES; AND

18 (E) RECOVERY CARE AND RELATED RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS.

19 (d) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A GRANT, AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT MUST  
20 PROVIDE A MATCH.

21 (3) **Policies, procedures, and guidelines.** (a) THE DIVISION  
22 SHALL DEVELOP POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANT  
23 PROGRAM THAT, WITHOUT LIMITATION:

24 (I) DETERMINE HOW GRANTS FUNDED BY THE GRANT PROGRAM  
25 MUST BE USED;

26 (II) ESTABLISH CRITERIA THAT THE DIVISION MUST CONSIDER IN  
27 AWARDING GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE

1 CRITERIA MUST INCLUDE THE CONSIDERATION OF:

2 (A) THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF A PROJECT THAT AN ELIGIBLE  
3 RECIPIENT FUNDS WITH A GRANT AWARD AND HOW THE PROJECT MEETS  
4 THE GOALS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM; AND

5 (B) BEST PRACTICES, DATA, AND REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
6 COLLABORATION.

7 (III) ESTABLISH THE PROCEDURES AND TIMELINES BY WHICH AN  
8 ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT;

9 (IV) REQUIRE GRANT RECIPIENTS TO OFFER A MATCH;

10 (V) REQUIRE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE  
11 GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED TO INCREASE HOUSING AND ECONOMIC  
12 SECURITY FOR INDIVIDUALS BEING SERVED THROUGH THE GRANT  
13 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND EFFORTS;

14 (VI) ESTABLISH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT  
15 RECIPIENTS;

16 (VII) ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS'  
17 PROJECTS;

18 (VIII) PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS THAT THE  
19 DIVISION DEEMS NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM; AND

20 (IX) DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO LEVERAGE PRIVATE CAPITAL,  
21 WHEN POSSIBLE.

22 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION,  
23 THE AMOUNT OF ANY GRANT AWARDED UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM AND  
24 ANY RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS PLACED UPON THE USE OF GRANT  
25 MONEY AWARDED IS WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF THE DIVISION IN  
26 ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

27 (4) **Grant program goals.** THE GRANT PROGRAM MUST BE

1 ADMINISTERED WITH THE GOAL OF REDUCING THE RATE OF HOMELESSNESS  
2 BY SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ADEQUATE  
3 SUPPORT SYSTEMS TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO THE STRUGGLES PEOPLE  
4 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FACE.

5 **(5) Connecting Coloradans experiencing homelessness with**  
6 **services, treatment, and housing supports fund - transfer of money**

7 **to the fund - appropriation.** (a) THE CONNECTING COLORADANS  
8 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH SERVICES, TREATMENT, AND HOUSING  
9 SUPPORTS FUND IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE FUND CONSISTS OF  
10 MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION  
11 (5)(c) OF THIS SECTION; MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE  
12 GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM ANY  
13 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, THAT  
14 THE DIVISION IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AND ACCEPT.

15 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME  
16 DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND TO  
17 THE FUND. ALL MONEY NOT EXPENDED OR ENCUMBERED, AND ALL  
18 INTEREST EARNED ON THE INVESTMENT OR DEPOSIT OF MONEY IN THE  
19 FUND, REMAINS IN THE FUND AND DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL  
20 FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR. THE MONEY  
21 IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR  
22 THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.

23 (c) THE DIVISION MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS,  
24 OR DONATIONS FROM ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE RESOURCE FOR THE  
25 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE DIVISION SHALL TRANSMIT ALL MONEY  
26 RECEIVED FROM GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND  
27 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE FUND.



1 (d) ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, OR AS SOON AS  
2 PRACTICABLE THEREAFTER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE  
3 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION  
4 ONE HUNDRED FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE ECONOMIC RELIEF AND  
5 RECOVERY CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-228 TO THE FUND. THE  
6 MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (5)(d) MUST ONLY  
7 BE USED FOR:

8 (I) MAKING GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS PURSUANT TO THE  
9 GRANT PROGRAM; AND

10 (II) THE COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM AS MAY  
11 BE INCURRED BY THE DIVISION. THE DIVISION MAY EXPEND UP TO SEVEN  
12 PERCENT OF THE MONEY APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND TO  
13 PAY FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANT  
14 PROGRAM. ALL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS MUST BE PAID OUT OF THE MONEY  
15 TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (5)(d)(II).

16 (e) MONEY SPENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (5)(e) MUST  
17 CONFORM WITH THE ALLOWABLE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THE FEDERAL  
18 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS AMENDED.  
19 THE DIVISION SHALL SPEND OR OBLIGATE SUCH APPROPRIATION PRIOR TO  
20 DECEMBER 30, 2024, AND EXPEND THE APPROPRIATION ON OR BEFORE  
21 DECEMBER 31, 2026.

22 (f) THE EXPENDITURES MADE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION  
23 CONSTITUTE GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

24 (g) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31,  
25 2026.

26 (6) **Reporting.** (a) THE DIVISION SHALL INCLUDE IN THE PUBLIC  
27 REPORT THE DIVISION PREPARES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION

1 24-32-705.5 (1) INFORMATION SUMMARIZING THE USE OF ALL THE MONEY  
2 THAT WAS AWARDED AS GRANTS FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM IN THE  
3 PRECEDING STATE FISCAL YEAR. AT A MINIMUM, THE INFORMATION MUST  
4 SPECIFY:

5 (I) THE NUMBER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OR COMMUNITY  
6 PARTNERS THAT APPLIED FOR A GRANT, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF LOCAL  
7 GOVERNMENTS OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS THAT WERE NOT AWARDED A  
8 GRANT;

9 (II) THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT MONEY DISTRIBUTED TO EACH  
10 GRANT RECIPIENT;

11 (III) A DESCRIPTION OF EACH GRANT RECIPIENT'S USE OF THE  
12 GRANT MONEY;

13 (IV) HOW THE USE OF THE GRANT AWARDED FURTHERED THE  
14 GOALS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS  
15 SECTION; AND

16 (V) RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FURTHER ADMINISTRATION  
17 OF THE GRANT PROGRAM.

18 (b) THE DIVISION AND ANY ENTITY THAT RECEIVES MONEY FROM  
19 THE DIVISION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE COMPLIANCE, REPORTING,  
20 RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS  
21 ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING AND  
22 THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-75-226 (5).

23 (c) IN THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT, IN  
24 CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND  
25 FINANCING, SHALL SHARE ANY RESULTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND  
26 FEDERAL IMPLICATIONS CONCERNING ANY CURRENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING  
27 PILOT PROGRAMS BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND

1 DIVISION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING  
2 AS PART OF ITS "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE,  
3 AND TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT" HEARING PURSUANT  
4 TO SECTION 2-7-203. IN THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT  
5 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING SHALL  
6 SUBMIT A REPORT DETAILING ANY SUCH RESULTS, RECOMMENDATIONS,  
7 AND FEDERAL IMPLICATIONS CONCERNING ANY CURRENT SUPPORTIVE  
8 HOUSING PILOT PROGRAMS BEING OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND  
9 DIVISION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING  
10 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
11 AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN  
12 SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

13 (7) **Repeal.** THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-705, **amend**  
15 (7) as follows:

16 **24-32-705. Functions of division.** (7) The division shall  
17 administer:

18 (a) The affordable housing guided toolkit and local officials guide  
19 program in accordance with ~~section 24-32-721.5~~ SECTION 24-32-721.7;

20 AND

21 (b) THE CONNECTING COLORADANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS  
22 WITH SERVICES, TREATMENT, AND HOUSING SUPPORTS GRANT PROGRAM  
23 CREATED IN SECTION 24-32-726.

24 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-705.5, **add**  
25 (3.5) as follows:

26 **24-32-705.5. Annual public report on funding of affordable**  
27 **housing preservation and production - definition.** (3.5) FOR THE

1 PUBLIC REPORT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
2 DIVISION SHALL INCLUDE IN THE REPORT FOR EACH YEAR OF THE  
3 CONNECTING COLORADANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH  
4 SERVICES, TREATMENT, AND HOUSING SUPPORTS GRANT PROGRAM'S  
5 OPERATION, THE INFORMATION REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
6 24-32-726.

7 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.