

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 22-0489.02 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 22-1380**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING CREATING COMPREHENSIVE, STATEWIDE SYSTEMS TO**  
102                    **PROVIDE IMPROVED ACCESS TO CRITICAL PROGRAM SERVICES**  
103                    **THAT SUPPORT LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS, AND, IN**  
104                    **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**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 requires the department of human services to implement a work management system across all counties to interface with the Colorado benefits management system used to process and approve

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.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 28, 2022

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 27, 2022

applications for essential state public assistance programs such as the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), medicaid, and Colorado works.

The bill integrates eligibility and enrollment for SNAP with eligibility criteria for the Colorado low-income energy assistance program to increase access.

The bill creates a community food access program (food program) in the department of agriculture (department). The purpose of the food program is to improve access to and lower prices for healthy foods in low-income and underserved areas of the state by supporting small grocery retailers. The small food business recovery and resilience grant program (grant program) is established, to be overseen by the food program. An advisory committee is established to assist the department with the grant program. One-time grants not to exceed \$25,000 will be provided to small grocery retailers to help support infrastructure and other necessary items to make fresh, healthy food more accessible to low-income and underserved communities. The department is granted authority to promulgate rules as necessary to implement the food program.

The food program is repealed, effective September 1, 2027.

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

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

4 (a) Colorado is ranked as one of the most expensive states to live  
5 in. On a scale of one to fifty, with fifty meaning highest costs, Colorado  
6 ranks forty-eighth for housing affordability and thirty-sixth for cost of  
7 living.

8 (b) Nutrition insecurity rates are at record highs in Colorado, and  
9 the rising cost of food exacerbates this. Today, thirty-three percent of  
10 Coloradans report some degree of food insecurity, up from just less than  
11 ten percent before the COVID-19 pandemic began.

12 (c) Housing affordability and accessibility are at crisis levels in  
13 Colorado; when a family becomes burdened by rent costs, the family  
14 often begins to spend less on other items, such as healthy food;

1 (d) Long-standing disparities in access to healthy food have  
2 increased dramatically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; forty-three  
3 percent of non-White and Latino Coloradans now struggle to put food on  
4 the table, compared with twenty-nine percent of White Coloradans;

5 (e) More than two hundred fifty thousand Colorado households  
6 receive supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits;

7 (f) More than sixty percent of food retailers in Colorado that  
8 accept SNAP benefits are small, corner, or convenience stores. These  
9 stores often struggle to provide a balanced and healthy selection of food.

10 (g) In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency,  
11 obstacles that small food retailers face in providing healthy, affordable  
12 food to local communities include a lack of financial resources for  
13 capacity-building, such as updating technology, paying for pallet fees, and  
14 technical assistance with negotiating and contracting;

15 (h) To help bring down the cost of essential, fresh, and perishable  
16 food for lower-income households and to maximize the amount and  
17 quality of food they can purchase, it is essential to assist small food  
18 retailers;

19 (i) Small food retailers tend to have higher prices for fresh and  
20 perishable foods compared to large food retailers. Small food retailers  
21 face pallet break fees charged by distributors because they cannot meet  
22 minimum purchase quotas; small food retailers also lack cold storage or  
23 other storage space to store higher quantities of perishable foods; and

24 (j) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is in the best  
25 interest of Coloradans to establish a community food access program to  
26 improve access to and lower prices for healthy foods in low-income and  
27 underserved areas of the state by supporting small food retailers with

1 technical assistance, subsidies for pallet, pallet break, distribution,  
2 delivery, and other fees, and one-time grants to strengthen infrastructure.

3 (2) The general assembly further finds that:

4 (a) A high-quality work management system will have further  
5 interoperability to interface with the Colorado benefits management  
6 system (CBMS) and other human services technology systems used to  
7 process and approve applications for essential programs like SNAP,  
8 medicaid, and Colorado works;

9 (b) Work management systems are tools that help county offices  
10 triage and manage caseloads, which allows for more time to provide  
11 critical services;

12 (c) Currently, work management systems are not standardized  
13 across the state, with many rural and frontier counties lacking access to  
14 fully optimized tools to better manage workload; and

15 (d) Investing in a universal high-quality work management system  
16 will reduce administrative costs and streamline the application process for  
17 programs like SNAP, medicaid, and Colorado works; and allow for better  
18 case management and improved access to program services that help  
19 low-income households purchase healthy food, pay for medical expenses,  
20 and achieve economic stability.

21 (3) (a) The general assembly further declares that the federal  
22 government enacted the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L.  
23 117-2, as amended, to help state, local, and tribal governments respond  
24 to the impact and effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency on  
25 their communities, residents, and businesses. Under the federal act, the  
26 state of Colorado has received over three billion dollars to be used for the  
27 purposes identified in the federal act.

1 (b) The general assembly further determines that establishing a  
2 community food program, a high-quality work management system, and  
3 a database connection to issue payments to recipients' electronic benefits  
4 transfer cards, as funded by this act, are appropriate uses of the money  
5 transferred to Colorado under the federal act and constitute critical  
6 government services.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-2-141 as  
8 follows:

9 **26-2-141. High-quality work management system -**  
10 **implementation - funding - repeal.** (1) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, THE  
11 STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL BEGIN WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNTIES  
12 TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF A \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH-QUALITY COUNTY WORK  
13 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FROM JOINT STATE AND COUNTY DECISIONS  
14 INFORMED BY THE JOINT AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY SYSTEM STUDY. THE  
15 WORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MUST BE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A UNIFIED  
16 APPROACH TO EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY SERVE COUNTY  
17 DEPARTMENTS AND CLIENTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE STATE  
18 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A CENTRALIZED PROCESS FOR COUNTY  
19 DEPARTMENTS TO REQUEST CHANGES OR CUSTOMIZATION IN THE WORK  
20 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. IF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT'S CHANGE OR  
21 CUSTOMIZATION IS APPROVED, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL HAVE A  
22 MECHANISM TO FULFILL THAT REQUEST. THE PURPOSE OF THE WORK  
23 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IS TO REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE COST, STREAMLINE  
24 THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR VARIOUS BENEFIT PROGRAMS, AND  
25 PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR BETTER CASE MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVED  
26 ACCESS TO PROGRAM SERVICES THAT ASSIST LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS  
27 IN PURCHASING HEALTHY FOOD, PAYING FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES, AND

1 ACHIEVING ECONOMIC STABILITY.

2 (2) (a) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE  
4 ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
5 24-75-228 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF  
6 IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION. UPON FULL UTILIZATION OR EXPIRATION OF  
7 THE MONEY APPROPRIATED FROM THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF  
8 CASH FUND PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) FOR THE WORK  
9 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER  
10 ONGOING COSTS TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE WORK MANAGEMENT  
11 SYSTEM.

12 (b) MONEY SPENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) MUST  
13 CONFORM WITH THE ALLOWABLE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THE FEDERAL  
14 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS AMENDED.  
15 THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL EITHER SPEND OR OBLIGATE SUCH  
16 APPROPRIATION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 30, 2024, AND EXPEND THE  
17 APPROPRIATION ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026.

18 (3) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE  
19 COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION  
20 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND  
21 BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
22 24-75-226 (5).

23 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

24 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-307, **amend**  
25 (1)(a), (1)(b) introductory portion, (1)(b)(V) introductory portion,  
26 (1)(b)(V)(B), and (1)(d) introductory portion; **repeal** (1)(b)(III),  
27 (1)(b)(IV), (1)(c), and (1)(e); and **add** (1)(b)(III.5) and (1)(d.1) as

1 follows:

2 **26-2-307. Fuel assistance payments - eligibility for federal**  
3 **standard utility allowance - supplemental utility assistance fund**

4 **established - definitions - repeal.** (1) (a) On and after ~~January 1, 2024~~  
5 JULY 1, 2024, the state department shall implement a program to make  
6 fuel assistance payments by crediting the fuel assistance payments to  
7 recipients' electronic benefits transfer service cards.

8 (b) Except as provided in ~~subsections (1)(c) and~~ SUBSECTION  
9 (1)(d) of this section:

10 (III) ~~The state department may seek, accept, and expend outside~~  
11 ~~funds to finance its work to develop the database connection. The state~~  
12 ~~department shall transmit any outside funds received pursuant to this~~  
13 ~~subsection (1)(b)(III) to the state treasurer who shall credit the outside~~  
14 ~~funds to the supplemental utility assistance fund.~~

15 (III.5) (A) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TWO MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE  
17 ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
18 24-75-228 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF  
19 IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION.

20 (B) MONEY SPENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b)(III.5)  
21 MUST CONFORM WITH THE ALLOWABLE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THE  
22 FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS  
23 AMENDED. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL EITHER SPEND OR OBLIGATE  
24 SUCH APPROPRIATION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 30, 2024, AND EXPEND THE  
25 APPROPRIATION ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026.

26 (C) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b)(III.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
27 SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

1 (IV) ~~The state department shall use outside funds received to~~  
2 ~~process the EBT card payments and for other administrative costs~~  
3 ~~incurred in implementing the program. If insufficient funds are available~~  
4 ~~to cover the administrative costs, the state department shall request that~~  
5 ~~the organization allocate, as part of its budget prepared pursuant to~~  
6 ~~section 40-8.7-108 (3), money to the state department from the energy~~  
7 ~~assistance system benefit charge collected pursuant to section 40-8.7-104~~  
8 ~~(2.5) for this purpose.~~

9 (V) On or before April 1, 2022 2024, and on or before April 1 of  
10 each year thereafter, the state department shall submit a budget to the  
11 organization and the commission to include the state department's  
12 administrative costs to implement the program, INCLUDING THE COST TO  
13 ISSUE PAYMENTS TO RECIPIENTS' ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER CARDS  
14 FOR PAYMENTS MADE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION,  
15 and the projected number of eligible households that the state department  
16 identifies as receiving SNAP benefits but that are not receiving assistance  
17 under LEAP, including an estimated number of new SNAP cases that the  
18 state department will approve during the upcoming federal fiscal year.  
19 Based on the budget that the state department submits, the organization  
20 shall:

21 (B) Transmit the money to the state department on or before July  
22 1, 2022 2024, and on or before July 1 of each year thereafter.

23 (c) ~~If, by January 1, 2022, the state department does not receive~~  
24 ~~outside funds pursuant to subsection (1)(b)(III) of this section or does not~~  
25 ~~receive sufficient outside funds to develop the database connection, the~~  
26 ~~state department shall notify the joint technology committee created in~~  
27 ~~section 2-3-1702 that outside funds were not received or that insufficient~~



1 ~~outside funds were received.~~

2 (d) If insufficient ~~outside~~ funds to develop the database  
3 connection are received by ~~January 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, the state  
4 department need not commence work on developing the database  
5 connection pursuant to subsection (1)(b)(II) of this section, but shall:

6 (d.1) SUBSECTION (1)(d) OF THIS SECTION AND THIS SUBSECTION  
7 (1)(d.1) ARE REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022.

8 ~~(e) If, after January 1, 2022, the state department receives~~  
9 ~~sufficient outside funds for the purpose of developing the database~~  
10 ~~connection, the state department shall, as soon as practicable, develop the~~  
11 ~~database connection and transition to implementing the program in~~  
12 ~~accordance with subsection (1)(b) of this section.~~

13 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-308, **amend** (4)  
14 and (5) as follows:

15 **26-2-308. Colorado employment first - supplemental nutrition**  
16 **assistance program - federal match - legislative declaration -**  
17 **definition - repeal.** (4) For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, the general  
18 assembly shall appropriate three million dollars from the general fund to  
19 the state department for the purposes described in subsection (3) of this  
20 section. If any unexpended or unencumbered money appropriated for the  
21 fiscal year remains at the end of the fiscal year, the state department may  
22 expend the money for the same purposes ~~in the next fiscal year~~ without  
23 further appropriation.

24 (5) This section is repealed, effective ~~July 1, 2023~~ JULY 1, 2024.

25 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 35-1-116 as  
26 follows:

27 **35-1-116. Community food access program - creation - purpose**

1    **- duties and responsibilities - grant program - funding - reporting -**  
2    **rules - definitions - repeal.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT

3    A COMMUNITY FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS  
4    TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND LOWER PRICES FOR HEALTHY FOODS IN  
5    LOW-INCOME AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE BY SUPPORTING  
6    SMALL FOOD RETAILERS.

7           (2) (a) AS PART OF THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
8    CREATE A COMMUNITY FOOD CONSORTIUM FOR SMALL FOOD RETAILERS  
9    AND COLORADO-OWNED AND COLORADO-OPERATED FARMS THAT HAS THE  
10   FOLLOWING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

11           (I) PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING AND  
12   NEGOTIATIONS;

13           (II) PROVIDING SUBSIDIES FOR PALLET, PALLET BREAK,  
14   DISTRIBUTION, AND DELIVERY FEES;

15           (III) ASSISTING WITH CONNECTING SMALL FOOD PRODUCERS TO  
16   SMALL FOOD RETAILERS, WHICH ULTIMATELY SUPPORTS THE FARM,  
17   RETAILER, AND CONSUMER;

18           (IV) OPERATING AS A FOOD VALUE CHAIN COORDINATOR TO  
19   CONNECT SMALL FOOD RETAILERS TO COLORADO-OWNED AND  
20   COLORADO-OPERATED FARMS AND SMALL- AND LARGE-SCALE  
21   DISTRIBUTORS; AND

22           (V) PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO SMALL FOOD RETAILERS  
23   WHO CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSORTIUM WITH NEGOTIATING  
24   PALLET, PALLET BREAK, PRICING, DISTRIBUTION, AND DELIVERY FEES FOR  
25   BETTER PRICES ON WHOLESALE PRODUCTS.

26           (b) (I) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL  
27   ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE

1 ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
2 24-75-228 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING  
3 THIS SECTION.

4 (II) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO USE UP TO SEVEN  
5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE PROGRAM FOR THE  
6 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM.

7 (III) MONEY SPENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) MUST  
8 CONFORM WITH THE ALLOWABLE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THE FEDERAL  
9 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS AMENDED.  
10 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EITHER SPEND OR OBLIGATE SUCH  
11 APPROPRIATION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 30, 2024, AND EXPEND THE  
12 APPROPRIATION ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026.

13 (IV) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE  
14 COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION  
15 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND  
16 BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
17 24-75-226 (5).

18 (V) THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,  
19 2027.

20 (3) (a) AS PART OF THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
21 CREATE AND MANAGE THE SMALL FOOD BUSINESS RECOVERY AND  
22 RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD ONE-TIME  
23 GRANTS, NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, OUT OF THE  
24 GRANT PROGRAM, TO PARTICIPATING SMALL FOOD RETAILERS AND SMALL  
25 FAMILY FARMS FOR:

26 (I) ASSISTING WITH THE NECESSARY COSTS OF OPERATING;

27 (II) PURCHASING COSTLY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT

1 LIMITED TO COLD STORAGE, DISPLAY SHELVING, AND CALIBRATED AND  
2 CERTIFIED PRODUCE SCALES;

3 (III) PROVIDING ACCOUNTING AND BOOK MANAGEMENT SUPPORT;  
4 AND

5 (IV) PURCHASING OR UPDATING POINT OF SALES SYSTEMS OR  
6 EQUIPMENT TO ALLOW PARTICIPATING SMALL FOOD RETAILERS TO ACCEPT  
7 PAYMENT FROM ANY FOOD INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

8 (b) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
9 CONSISTING OF NO MORE THAN SEVEN MEMBERS TO ASSIST WITH THE  
10 GRANT PROGRAM. THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MAY INCLUDE BUT NEED  
11 NOT BE LIMITED TO MEMBERS THAT REFLECT COMMUNITY AND NONPROFIT  
12 ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a)  
13 OF THIS SECTION, SMALL FOOD RETAILERS, AND SMALL FAMILY FARMS  
14 THAT ARE NOT APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDING, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS  
15 PARTICIPATED IN A SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFIT PROGRAM,  
16 AND DEPARTMENT STAFF WITH EXPERIENCE IN GRANT-MAKING. THE  
17 COMMISSIONER SHALL SELECT THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY  
18 COMMITTEE.

19 (II) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S ROLE IS TO MAKE  
20 RECOMMENDATIONS ON AND ASSIST WITH:

21 (A) THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRANT APPLICATION;

22 (B) A DISBURSEMENT TIMELINE FOR THE GRANTS;

23 (C) A RUBRIC TO EVALUATE GRANT APPLICATIONS;

24 (D) THE EVALUATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS; AND

25 (E) AWARDING GRANT MONEY TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.

26 (III) THE DEPARTMENT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD  
27 AT LEAST THIRTY PERCENT OF THE GRANTS TO APPLICANTS LOCATED IN

1 RURAL AREAS.

2 (c) (I) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE  
4 ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
5 24-75-228 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING  
6 THIS SUBSECTION (3) AND SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.

7 (II) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO USE UP TO TEN PERCENT  
8 OF THE TOTAL MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE PROGRAM FOR THE DIRECT  
9 AND INDIRECT COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM.

10 (III) MONEY SPENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) MUST  
11 CONFORM WITH THE ALLOWABLE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THE FEDERAL  
12 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS AMENDED.  
13 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EITHER SPEND OR OBLIGATE SUCH  
14 APPROPRIATION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 30, 2024, AND EXPEND THE  
15 APPROPRIATION ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026.

16 (IV) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE  
17 COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION  
18 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND  
19 BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
20 24-75-226 (5).

21 (V) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,  
22 2027.

23 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR OUTREACH  
24 TO COLORADO-OWNED AND COLORADO-OPERATED FARMS AND FOOD  
25 RETAILERS AND SMALL FARMS THAT ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN  
26 THE CONSORTIUM OR APPLYING FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE GRANT  
27 PROGRAM. THE OUTREACH STRATEGY MUST INCLUDE:

1 (a) FUNDING FOR PARTNERSHIPS WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS  
2 TO ENSURE APPLICANTS FOR THE CONSORTIUM AND GRANT PROGRAM  
3 REFLECT THE IDENTITY AND NEEDS OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES.  
4 THE OUTREACH STRATEGY MUST INCLUDE FUNDING FOR PARTNERSHIPS  
5 WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE:

6 (I) EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH SMALL FOOD RETAILERS AND  
7 SMALL FAMILY FARMS THAT CURRENTLY ACCEPT PAYMENT FROM ANY  
8 INCENTIVE PROGRAM;

9 (II) EXPERIENCE RUNNING AND SUPPORTING SMALL FOOD  
10 RETAILERS AND SMALL FAMILY FARMS OR ANY OTHER FOOD INCENTIVE  
11 PROGRAM;

12 (III) EXPERIENCE WITH GRANT-MAKING;

13 (IV) COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL ENSURE THAT  
14 OUTREACH TO SMALL FOOD RETAILERS AND SMALL FARMS REFLECTS THE  
15 IDENTITY AND NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES; OR

16 (V) A DEMONSTRATED TRACK RECORD OF WORKING IN FOOD  
17 ACCESS AND FOOD JUSTICE; AND

18 (b) WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, COUNTIES, TOWNS, AND  
19 OTHER MUNICIPALITIES.

20 (5) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
21 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND WATER  
22 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE AGRICULTURE  
23 AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY  
24 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, ON THE GRANT PROGRAM AND CONSORTIUM,  
25 INCLUDING INFORMATION ON GRANTEEES, USE OF GRANT FUNDS, SNAP  
26 SALES, AND PRODUCE AND STOCKING DATA.

27 (6) (a) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE  
2 ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
3 24-75-228 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT  
4 OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL USE THE APPROPRIATION FOR ELECTRONIC  
5 BENEFITS TRANSFER BACK-END PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES. THE  
6 APPROPRIATION MUST ALSO BE USED FOR NEW FUNCTIONALITY WITH THE  
7 CONTRACTED FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY VENDOR AND ELIGIBILITY SYSTEM  
8 THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO DEPOSIT TIME-LIMITED INCENTIVE FUNDS  
9 BASED ON QUALIFYING PURCHASES BACK INTO AN ACCOUNT BY AN  
10 AUTHORIZED ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER RETAILER WITH THE  
11 APPROPRIATE MIDDLEWARE.

12 (b) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IS AUTHORIZED TO USE  
13 UP TO TEN PERCENT OF THE TOTAL MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE  
14 PROGRAM FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE  
15 PROGRAM.

16 (c) MONEY SPENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (6) 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 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL EITHER SPEND OR OBLIGATE  
20 SUCH APPROPRIATION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 30, 2024, AND EXPEND THE  
21 APPROPRIATION ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026.

22 (d) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL COMPLY WITH  
23 THE COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM  
24 EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE  
25 PLANNING AND BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE  
26 WITH SECTION 24-75-226 (5).

27 (e) THIS SUBSECTION (6) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,

1 2027.

2 (7) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY  
3 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

4 (8) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
5 REQUIRES:

6 (a) "CONSORTIUM" MEANS THE COMMUNITY FOOD CONSORTIUM  
7 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (b) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE SMALL FOOD BUSINESS  
9 RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3)  
10 OF THIS SECTION.

11 (c) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE COMMUNITY FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM  
12 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

13 (d) "SMALL FAMILY FARM" MEANS A FARM THAT IS  
14 COLORADO-OWNED AND COLORADO-OPERATED AND HAS AN ANNUAL  
15 GROSS REVENUE BELOW THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

16 (e) "SMALL FOOD RETAILER" MEANS:

17 (I) AN INDEPENDENT OR NONPROFIT-MANAGED,  
18 COLORADO-OWNED, AND COLORADO-OPERATED SMALL FOOD RETAIL  
19 BUSINESS, DEFINED AS A FOOD RETAILER WITH LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND  
20 SQUARE FEET OF RETAIL SPACE THAT CARRIES AT LEAST THREE  
21 CATEGORIES OF FEDERALLY DEFINED STAPLE FOODS, AS DESCRIBED IN THE  
22 FEDERAL "FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008", SECTIONS 3 AND 9, THE  
23 "CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2017", SEC. 76, AND THE  
24 FEDERAL "ENHANCING RETAILER STANDARDS IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL  
25 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM", 81 FED. REG. 90675, AND BE  
26 LOCATED IN OR PROVIDE FOOD TO LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERALLY DEFINED  
27 LOW-INCOME, LOW-ACCESS NEIGHBORHOODS; OR



1 (II) A FARMER'S MARKET OR FARM-DIRECT OPERATION THAT IS  
2 ALREADY OR DEMONSTRATES AN INTENT TO BECOME SNAP AND WIC  
3 -AUTHORIZED WHERE ALLOWED.

4 (f) "SNAP" MEANS THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
5 PROGRAM, ESTABLISHED IN PART 3 OF ARTICLE 2 OF TITLE 26.

6 (g) "WIC" MEANS THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION  
7 PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN, CREATED PURSUANT TO  
8 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1786.

9 (8) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

10 **SECTION 6. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal  
11 year, \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for  
12 use by administration and finance. This appropriation is from the  
13 economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228  
14 (2)(a), C.R.S., and is of money the state received from the federal  
15 coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. To implement this act,  
16 administration and finance may use this appropriation for IT systems  
17 interoperability.

18 (2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$2,000,000 is appropriated to  
19 the department of human services for use by the office of economic  
20 security. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash  
21 fund created in section 24-75-228 (2)(a), C.R.S., and is of money the state  
22 received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. To  
23 implement this act, the office of economic security may use this  
24 appropriation for fuel assistance payments related to food and energy  
25 assistance.

26 (3) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated to  
27 the department of human services for use by the office of economic

1 security. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash  
2 fund created in section 24-75-228 (2)(a), C.R.S., and is of money the state  
3 received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. To  
4 implement this act, the office of economic security may use this  
5 appropriation for electronic benefits transfer programming related to food  
6 and energy assistance.

7 (4) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated to  
8 the department of agriculture for use by agricultural services. This  
9 appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created  
10 in section 24-75-228 (2)(a), C.R.S., is of money the state received from  
11 the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund, and is based on an  
12 assumption that agricultural services will require an additional 1.8 FTE.  
13 To implement this act, agricultural services may use this appropriation for  
14 the community food access program. Any money appropriated in this  
15 section not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is further appropriated to  
16 agricultural services from July 1, 2023, through December 30, 2024, for  
17 the same purpose.

18 (5) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$7,000,000 is appropriated to  
19 the department of agriculture for use by agricultural services. This  
20 appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created  
21 in section 24-75-228 (2)(a), C.R.S., and is of money the state received  
22 from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. To implement this  
23 act, agricultural services may use this appropriation for the small food  
24 business recovery and resilience grant program and outreach. Any money  
25 appropriated in this section not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is further  
26 appropriated to agricultural services from July 1, 2023, through December  
27 30, 2024, for the same purpose.

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