



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0900 **Date:** April 15, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Michaelson Jenet; **Bill Status:** House HHS
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Bill Topic: **RAPID MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE FOR COLORADO YOUTH**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill establishes the Temporary Youth Mental Health Services Program within the Office of Behavioral Health in the Department of Human Services. It increases state expenditures through FY 2021-22.

Appropriation Summary: For the current FY 2020-21, the bill includes an appropriation of \$9.0 million to the Department of Human Services, which may be spent through FY 2021-22.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 21-1258

		Current Year FY 2020-21	Budget Year FY 2021-22	Out Year FY 2022-23
Revenue		-	-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$274,364	\$8,725,636	-
	Centrally Appropriated	\$3,082	\$32,990	-
	Total Expenditures	\$277,446	\$8,758,626	-
	Total FTE	0.2 FTE	2.0 FTE	-
Transfers		-	-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill establishes the Temporary Youth Mental Health Services Program within the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) in the Department of Human Services (DHS). The program reimburses providers for providing up to three mental health sessions to youth screened into the program. The OBH must develop a process to select providers; determine a reasonable reimbursement rate; and implement a statewide public awareness outreach campaign. The OBH must enter into an agreement with a vendor to create or use an existing web based portal made available to youth. The portal must have an age-appropriate mental health screening; allow providers to register and share appointment availability; connect youth to providers who will accept the youth’s insurance; and allows a youth to schedule an appointment regardless of insurance status. The program is repealed June 30, 2022. The bill appropriates \$9.0 million General Fund to the DHS for the program, which may be spent through the end of FY 2021-22.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state expenditures in the current FY 2020-21 by \$277,446 and 0.2 FTE, and by \$8.8 million and 2.0 FTE in FY 2021-22 in the DHS as shown in Table 2 and described below.

**Table 2
 Expenditures Under HB 21-1258**

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Department of Human Services		
Personal Services	\$11,964	\$143,566
Operating Expenses	-	\$2,700
Capital Outlay Costs	\$12,400	-
Provider Payments	-	\$6,895,104
Third-Party Vendor	-	\$1,034,266
Public Awareness Campaign	\$250,000	\$650,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$3,082	\$32,990
Total Cost	\$277,446	\$8,758,626
Total FTE	0.2 FTE	2.0 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Staffing Costs. From the current FY 2020-21 through FY 2021-22, the DHS requires 2.0 FTE to contract with a vendor, monitor, manage, and ensure compliance of providers, and to coordinate a marketing and communication campaign. Costs in the current FY 2020-21 reflect a May 1, 2021, start date and the General Fund paydate shift.

Provider Payments. In FY 2021-22 only, the bill will increase expenditures to reimburse providers for providing services to youths. Assuming a reimbursement rate of \$270 (for three \$90 sessions) per child, the bill will serve up to 25,537 children. The actual reimbursement rate will be determined by the DHS.

Third Party Vendor. In FY 2021-22 only, expenditures in the DHS will increase to contract with a third-party vendor to manage, oversee, and implement the program and to develop a portal that includes an assessment tool, telehealth infrastructure, and reporting.

Public Awareness Campaign. From the current FY 2020-21 through FY 2021-22, the bill will increase expenditures by a total of \$900,000 to develop and launch a public awareness campaign to children and parents. This cost is based on similar statewide public awareness campaigns conducted by the DHS.

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 \$3,082 in the current FY 2020-21 and \$32,990 in FY 2021-22.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For the current FY 2020-21, the bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$9.0 million to the Department of Human Services.

For FY 2021-22, any unspent money is further appropriated to the Department of Human Services.

State and Local Government Contacts

Health Care Policy and Financing
Information Technology

Human Services
Regulatory Agencies