

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0702.03 Christy Chase x2008

HOUSE BILL 22-1350

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskie,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Lundeen,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A GRANT PROGRAM TO MEET
102 WORKFORCE NEEDS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

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 establishes the regional talent development initiative grant program (grant program) in the office of economic development (office) to fund talent development initiatives across the state that meet regional labor market needs and specified grant program goals, including initiatives that meet workforce development needs in regions as they recover from the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

1 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

2 (a) THIS PART 4 IS INTENDED TO RESPOND TO THE NEGATIVE
3 ECONOMIC IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND
4 RESULTING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE, AID,
5 AND SUPPORTS TO UNEMPLOYED WORKERS, POPULATIONS
6 DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY,
7 AND IMPACTED INDUSTRIES, SMALL BUSINESSES, AND NONPROFIT
8 ORGANIZATIONS;

9 (b) MONEY ALLOCATED TO THE STATE PURSUANT TO THE
10 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021" AND TRANSFERRED TO THE
11 WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND WORKFORCE CENTERS CASH FUND CREATED
12 IN SECTION 24-75-231 MAY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 4;
13 AND

14 (c) THE GRANT PROGRAM AND RELATED SERVICES DESCRIBED IN
15 THIS PART 4 ARE IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

16 **24-48.5-403. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 4, UNLESS THE
17 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

18 (1) "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021" MEANS THE FEDERAL
19 "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L. 117-2, AS THE ACT MAY
20 BE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED.

21 (2) "APPLICANT" MEANS A COLLABORATION OF ENTITIES THAT:

22 (a) INCLUDES INDUSTRY AND EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES AND MAY
23 ALSO INCLUDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONPROFIT AND FOR-PROFIT
24 ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS; AND

25 (b) APPLIES FOR A GRANT FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM.

26 (3) "COVID-19" MEANS THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE CAUSED BY
27 THE SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS 2, ALSO

1 KNOWN AS SARS-CoV-2.

2 (4) "DEPARTMENTS" MEANS:

3 (a) THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT CREATED IN
4 SECTION 24-1-121;

5 (b) THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION
6 24-1-114; AND

7 (c) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION
8 24-1-115.

9 (5) "FUND" MEANS THE REGIONAL TALENT DEVELOPMENT
10 INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-48.5-406.

11 (6) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE REGIONAL TALENT
12 DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION
13 24-48.5-405.

14 (7) "INTERMEDIARY" MEANS:

15 (a) A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT HAS A PROVEN RECORD OF
16 CONNECTING EDUCATION PROVIDERS, EMPLOYERS, OR OTHER CIVIC
17 ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP CAREER PATHWAYS AND ADDRESS
18 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS; OR

19 (b) A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT ADDRESSES
20 ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

21 (8) "OFFICE" MEANS THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
22 DEVELOPMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-48.5-101.

23 (9) "PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR" MEANS:

24 (a) THE OFFICE;

25 (b) A STATE AGENCY DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO SECTION
26 24-48.5-405 (1)(a)(II)(B); OR

27 (c) ONE OR MORE THIRD PARTIES WITH WHOM THE OFFICE

1 CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-48.5-405 (1)(a)(II)(B).

2 (10) "SELECTION COMMITTEE" MEANS THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
3 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-48.5-405 (5) TO REVIEW AND MAKE
4 RECOMMENDATIONS ON GRANT APPLICATIONS.

5 (11) "STEERING COMMITTEE" MEANS THE STEERING COMMITTEE
6 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-48.5-404.

7 (12) "THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR" MEANS ONE OR MORE THIRD
8 PARTIES WITH WHOM THE OFFICE CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO SECTION
9 24-48.5-405 (1)(a) TO SERVE AS THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.

10 **24-48.5-404. Steering committee - creation - duties.** (1) THE
11 OFFICE SHALL ASSEMBLE A STEERING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF NO
12 FEWER THAN FIVE AND NO MORE THAN SEVEN MEMBERS WHO ARE
13 BUSINESS, CIVIC, EDUCATION, AND NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS FOR
14 PURPOSES OF SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR IN
15 IMPLEMENTING AND ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING
16 DEVELOPING AN APPLICATION PROCESS AND ESTABLISHING GRANT
17 APPLICATION SELECTION AND PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA.

18 (2) IN COORDINATION WITH THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, THE
19 STEERING COMMITTEE SHALL:

20 (a) ENGAGE PROFESSIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFF, INCLUDING
21 CONSULTANTS, THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS, INTERMEDIARIES, AND
22 OFFICE STAFF, TO ASSIST THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR AND THE
23 STEERING COMMITTEE IN PERFORMING THEIR ACTIVITIES;

24 (b) ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR ENTITIES TO APPLY FOR GRANTS TO
25 FUND TALENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES;

26 (c) DEVELOP GRANT APPLICATION SELECTION AND PRIORITIZATION
27 CRITERIA THAT ARE TRANSPARENT, ARE EVIDENCE-BASED, ENCOURAGE

1 INNOVATION, AND ARE BASED ON THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN SECTION
2 24-48.5-405 (1)(c); AND

3 (d) OUTLINE A CLEAR AND TRANSPARENT EVALUATION PROCESS.

4 **24-48.5-405. Regional talent development initiative grant**
5 **program - creation - administration - eligibility - application review**

6 **- report.** (1) (a) (I) THERE IS CREATED IN THE OFFICE THE REGIONAL
7 TALENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM. THE OFFICE, IN
8 COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENTS AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE,
9 SHALL IDENTIFY REGIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO INFORM THE
10 SELECTION OF APPLICANTS.

11 (II) (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a)(II)(B) OF THIS
12 SECTION, THE OFFICE SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM.

13 (B) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE MAY DESIGNATE ANOTHER
14 STATE AGENCY, OR THE OFFICE MAY CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE THIRD
15 PARTIES, TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

16 (III) THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
17 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION SHALL
18 SUPPORT AND ADVISE THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR IN IMPLEMENTING
19 AND ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS PART 4.
20 THE OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING GRANT AWARD DECISIONS IN
21 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

22 (b) THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS
23 TO APPLICANTS IN IDENTIFIED REGIONS IN ORDER TO CREATE OR EXPAND
24 TALENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES ACROSS THE STATE THAT MEET
25 REGIONAL LABOR MARKET NEEDS AND THE GRANT PROGRAM GOALS
26 SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION.

27 (c) IN PRIORITIZING GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDING GRANTS,

1 THE OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENTS AND THE
2 SELECTION COMMITTEE, SHALL STRIVE TO MEET THE FOLLOWING GRANT
3 PROGRAM GOALS:

4 (I) TO MEET WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN IDENTIFIED
5 REGIONS OF THE STATE AS THE REGIONS WORK TO RECOVER FROM THE
6 NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC;

7 (II) TO CREATE INTENTIONAL PATHWAYS BETWEEN KINDERGARTEN
8 THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND
9 EMPLOYMENT THAT ALLOW LEARNERS AND EARNERS TO TRANSITION MORE
10 EASILY INTO AND OUT OF EACH SYSTEM; AND

11 (III) TO PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL LEARNERS
12 AND EARNERS TO BE MORE ECONOMICALLY MOBILE AND EARN A LIVING
13 WAGE IN AN IN-DEMAND, HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-WAGE OCCUPATION.

14 (2) THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, WITH DIRECTION FROM THE
15 STEERING COMMITTEE, SHALL:

16 (a) CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE A
17 PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION, TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE LANDSCAPE
18 ANALYSIS THAT IDENTIFIES STATEWIDE NEEDS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND
19 CHALLENGES BASED ON EXISTING OR PREVIOUS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES TO
20 ADDRESS THE SAME ISSUES AND CHALLENGES THAT THE GRANT PROGRAM
21 WILL ADDRESS;

22 (b) ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR ENTITIES TO APPLY FOR:

23 (I) GRANTS TO FUND TALENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES, WHICH
24 APPLICATION PROCESS MUST BE AVAILABLE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER
25 1, 2022; AND

26 (II) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO ENTITIES BEFORE
27 SUBMITTING A GRANT APPLICATION;

1 (c) ESTABLISH AT LEAST TWO GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES,
2 WHICH MAY INCLUDE A PLANNING PHASE AND A FUNDING PHASE; AND

3 (d) ESTABLISH POLICIES SETTING FORTH THE PARAMETERS AND
4 ELIGIBILITY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM.

5 (3) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT, AN APPLICANT MUST, AT A
6 MINIMUM, INCLUDE WITH ITS GRANT APPLICATION:

7 (a) A DETAILED PROPOSAL AND OPERATIONS PLAN FOR A TALENT
8 DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TO SERVE A PARTICULAR REGION AND THAT
9 MEETS THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION;

10 (b) INFORMATION ABOUT HOW THE PROPOSED TALENT
11 DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE MEETS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF
12 THE REGION OR THE NEEDS OF THE REGION AS DETERMINED PURSUANT TO
13 AN INDUSTRY-LED OR OTHER ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC
14 DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE REGION;

15 (c) PROPOSED METRICS AND DATA TO BE TRACKED TO EVALUATE
16 THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE;

17 (d) INFORMATION ABOUT HOW THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE WILL BE
18 SUSTAINABLE AFTER THE GRANT CONCLUDES; AND

19 (e) IF AN APPLICANT IS APPLYING FOR A GRANT FOR AN INITIATIVE
20 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION, INFORMATION
21 SUPPORTING THE ASSERTION THAT THE INITIATIVE IS EVIDENCE-BASED
22 AND CAN BE SCALED TO MEET ADDITIONAL DEMANDS.

23 (4) IN DEVELOPING THE GRANT APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA
24 PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-48.5-404 (2)(c), THE STEERING COMMITTEE
25 SHALL:

26 (a) PROVIDE FOR AT LEAST TWO CATEGORIES OF GRANT AWARDS
27 THAT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN INITIATIVE TYPES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

1 (I) SEED FUNDING FOR INNOVATIVE WAYS TO MEET THE GOALS
2 SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION; AND

3 (II) EXPANSION FUNDING FOR INITIATIVES THAT ARE
4 EVIDENCE-BASED AND CAN BE SCALED TO MEET ADDITIONAL DEMANDS;

5 (b) PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR RURAL
6 APPLICANTS DUE TO THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS; AND

7 (c) PRIORITIZE APPLICANTS THAT:

8 (I) CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANT MATCHING FUNDS FROM
9 PHILANTHROPIC, BUSINESS, AND OTHER TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS AND
10 INTEREST AREAS TO MEET THE GRANT PROGRAM GOALS; OR

11 (II) PROPOSE PROJECTS THAT AIM TO MEET URGENT STATE NEEDS
12 IN CRITICAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGE AREAS SUCH AS HEALTH CARE AND
13 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE
14 EDUCATION;

15 (5) (a) THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, WITH ADVICE FROM THE
16 STEERING COMMITTEE, SHALL APPOINT A SELECTION COMMITTEE
17 CONSISTING OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE AS
18 EMPLOYERS, IN EDUCATION, OR IN OTHER RELEVANT AREAS.

19 (b) THE SELECTION COMMITTEE SHALL REVIEW GRANT
20 APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCESSES AND CRITERIA
21 SPECIFIED IN AND DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND SHALL
22 MAKE GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE OFFICE BASED ON THOSE
23 PROCESSES AND CRITERIA. THE OFFICE SHALL MAKE FINAL
24 DETERMINATIONS AND AWARD GRANTS BASED ON THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED
25 IN AND DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

26 (6) (a) THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHALL ESTABLISH
27 REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH GRANT RECIPIENT TO COLLECT AND SHARE

1 INFORMATION ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS OF THE
2 TALENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR WHICH THE GRANT RECIPIENT
3 RECEIVED A GRANT AWARD.

4 (b) BY NOVEMBER 1, 2023, AND BY EACH NOVEMBER 1
5 THEREAFTER, THE OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STEERING
6 COMMITTEE, SHALL PUBLISH A REPORT SUMMARIZING THE USE OF THE
7 MONEY THAT WAS AWARDED AS GRANTS UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM IN
8 THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING STATE FISCAL YEAR. THE REPORT MUST
9 SPECIFY OR IDENTIFY, AT A MINIMUM:

10 (I) THE AMOUNT OF GRANT MONEY DISTRIBUTED TO EACH GRANT
11 RECIPIENT;

12 (II) A DESCRIPTION OF EACH GRANT RECIPIENT'S USE OF THE
13 GRANT MONEY;

14 (III) THE AMOUNT OF GRANTS AWARDED IN AND NUMBER OF
15 GRANT RECIPIENTS FROM EACH REGION OF THE STATE;

16 (IV) INFORMATION REGARDING THE SPECIFIC OUTCOME MEASURES
17 IDENTIFIED IN THE GRANT APPLICATIONS;

18 (V) THE LESSONS LEARNED, PROMISING PRACTICES,
19 EVIDENCE-BASED STANDARDS OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES, AND METRICS, AS
20 DETERMINED AND OUTLINED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE; AND

21 (VI) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE GRANT PROGRAM
22 THE OFFICE DETERMINES APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE IN THE REPORT.

23 **24-48.5-406. Regional talent development initiative grant**
24 **program fund.** (1) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE
25 REGIONAL TALENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM FUND.
26 THREE DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PART 4, THE STATE
27 TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER NINETY-ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE

1 WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND WORKFORCE CENTERS CASH FUND CREATED
2 IN SECTION 24-75-231 (2)(a) TO THE FUND AS FOLLOWS:

3 (I) FIFTY-SIX MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
4 FROM MONEY THE STATE RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERAL CORONARIUS
5 STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND UNDER SECTION 9901 OF TITLE IX,
6 SUBTITLE M OF THE "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021"; AND

7 (II) THIRTY-FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND
8 DOLLARS FROM MONEY THAT ORIGINATED FROM THE GENERAL FUND.

9 (b) THE MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO
10 THE OFFICE FOR USE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PART 4.

11 (2) OF THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO
12 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, NOT MORE THAN SEVEN PERCENT MAY
13 BE USED FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE OFFICE, THE
14 DEPARTMENTS, THE STEERING COMMITTEE, AND THE PROGRAM
15 ADMINISTRATOR IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM.

16 (3) THE OFFICE AND ANY PERSON THAT RECEIVES MONEY FROM
17 THE OFFICE, INCLUDING A GRANT RECIPIENT, THE PROGRAM
18 ADMINISTRATOR, A CONSULTANT, A CONTRACTOR, OR AN INTERMEDIARY,
19 SHALL ADHERE TO THE COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND
20 PROGRAM EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF
21 STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN
22 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-75-226 (5).

23 **24-48.5-407. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 4 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE
24 JULY 1, 2028.

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