



Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee Members
From: Kelly Shen, JBC Staff (303-866-5434)
Date: April 21, 2026
Subject: Potential Legislation Packet 19

If the Committee would like to approve a bill draft for introduction, the motion should include:

- Approve for introduction in the House/Senate as a JBC bill LLS 25-XXXX;
- Prime sponsors and co-sponsors; and
- Grant staff permission to make technical changes.

Each individual item has page numbers, but also a packet page number (P-XXX) to help navigate the whole document. The page numbers below refer to the packet page number that begins with a "P".

Potential Legislation

Human Services – Tom Dermody

LLS 26-0984 Works Program Reserves & Cost of Living AdjustmentP-1

Public Safety – Justin Brakke

LLS 26-1007 Community Corrections Budget Request and Data InfoP-9

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Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee
From: Tom Dermody, JBC Staff (303-866-4963)
Date: April 20, 2026
Subject: Summary of LLS 26-0984 (TANF/CO Works policy changes)

On March 25, 2026, the Committee approved drafting for a bill to make changes to the state policy regarding the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, also known as Colorado Works. These changes are:

1. A pause for two years the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) applied to the TANF basic cash assistance payments, after which basic cash assistance payments will be adjusted annually based on the most recent Social Security Administration COLA.
2. Removal of the requirement for the General Fund to backfill the state Long-term Works Reserve (LTR) along with removing the requirement for the LTR to backfill county reserves to the 15.0 percent floor as requested.
3. Eliminating the state and county reserve minimums in statute, while still allowing the state to maintain a reserve minimum administratively.
4. Making optional the requirement that counties offer extensions beyond the 60-month federal maximum provisions for good cause.

Adjustments to Section 26-2-706.5 (4)(a), C.R.S.

Staff has shared the draft legislation with the department, which is in agreement with the proposed changes. The Department did provide feedback on Section 1 (page 1, lines 11-15) that discusses the optional requirement for counties to offer extensions beyond the 60-month federal maximum. The Department notes that the language in line 11 was erroneously included in the changes made by H.B. 22-1259. Child-only cases are not subject to the 60-month limit.

Additionally, through the drafting process, it was noted that the ability to offer extensions for hardship is provide through Section 26-2-715 (5), C.R.S. This section of statute predates H.B. 22-1259, which did not change this part of statute. In making the good cause provision optional, having the explicit link to the hardship extensions may cause some confusion or unnecessary operational complexities. Removing this language from Section 26-2-706.5 (4)(a), C.R.S., does not affect the provisions in Section 26-2-715 (5), C.R.S.

These two proposed changes to Section 26-2-706.5 (4)(a), C.R.S., leads staff to recommend a simplification of this subsection: **staff recommends eliminating the list of examples currently provided in statute.** This list is inclusive, meaning the State Board of Human Services can create a more expansive definition of “good cause.” As a result of H.B. 22-1259, these rules have been established and are currently in use.¹ Simplifying the language of this subsection does not force a change to these rules.

Requests for Information

The Committee approved the addition of a Request for Information directing the State and Counties to coordinate and submit additional expenditure data to the Committee annually on January 1. The proposed language of the RFI is below.

1. Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Security - County Departments are requested to submit administrative spending data to the Department, so the Department can submit a report by November 1 of each fiscal year, that includes the following county TANF expenditure data from three state fiscal years (2019, 2024, 2026):
 - a. Personnel and Effort Allocation data, categorized into direct service (eligibility), direct service (case management), program support, and centralized administration:
 - 1) Number of FTE billed to TANF
 - 2) Dedication Tier (100 percent, 50-99 percent, etc.)
 - 3) Average Annual Salary and Benefits
 - 4) Total Team Size
 - b. County Indirect cost data (e.g. Facilities, IT, and other Indirect Costs) including amount charged to TANF, total county human services department cost, and Allocation method (square feet, FTE percent, etc) for each of the following categories:
 - 1) Rent/lease
 - 2) Utilities and maintenance
 - 3) IT and software licenses
 - 4) Indirect cost allocation methodology and amount billed to TANF
 - 5) County Service fees
 - c. Contracted services and vendor oversight data for each contract:
 - 1) Vendor name
 - 2) Service category
 - 3) Total contract value
 - 4) County administration cost (staff time)
 - 5) Vendor administration (percent)

Additionally, the Committee had indicated that direction be given to the Department to develop and explore a plan to address the structure of TANF reserves utilizing lessons learned from other states. The motion from March 25th, envisioned this direction as part of a legislative declaration. However, in order to ensure that the Committee and its staff have access to this research and report, staff believes a second RFI is warranted. Below is the proposed text of the RFI to collect this information.

¹ [9 CCR 2503-6](#)

2. Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Security - The Department is requested to provide to the Joint Budget Committee, by January 1,2027, a report detailing research of and lessons learned from other states regarding the establishment and use of TANF reserves. Using this information, the Department is requested to develop a plan to address the long-term sustainability and structure of Colorado's TANF reserves.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
4/16/26

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LLS NO. 26-0984.01 Anna Petrini x5497

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Works Program Reserves & Cost of Living Adjustment

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MODIFYING THE COLORADO WORKS 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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. Where current law requires, the bill now permits counties to offer households that demonstrate good cause an extension of Colorado works program (works program) assistance beyond the 60-month lifetime maximum.

Current law applies an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) to a works program basic cash assistance grant. The works program COLA is the greater of 2% or the 3-year average of the COLA applied by the federal social security administration. The bill suspends the works

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

program COLA during the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. Beginning with the 2028-29 fiscal year, the works program COLA is the same as the federal social security administration's COLA.

Current law establishes minimum reserve balances for the total statewide county TANF reserve and the Colorado long-term works reserve (reserves). The bill removes those reserve minimums. The bill eliminates a requirement for each reserve to replenish money in the other under certain conditions and for the general assembly to effectively backfill the balances of both reserves if their balances fall below specified minimums.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-706.5, **amend**
3 (4) introductory portion and (4)(a) as follows:

4 **26-2-706.5. Restrictions on length of participation - rules.**

5 (4) ~~No later than July 1, 2023,~~ The state board shall promulgate
6 ADOPT rules:

7 (a) Establishing statewide standards and procedures that ~~require~~
8 PERMIT counties to offer extensions beyond the sixty-month lifetime
9 maximum for all households that demonstrate good cause, which
10 includes, but is not limited to, an applicant or participant who is:

11 (I) A child-only case; OR

12 (II) The head of a single parent household unit and has a child
13 under one year ~~of age,~~ or OLD; AND

14 (III) ~~Experiencing hardship, as defined in rules promulgated by~~
15 ~~the state board, and~~

16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, **amend**
17 (1)(b)(I); **repeal** (1)(b)(III)(B), (1)(b)(III)(C), and (1)(b)(IV); and **add**
18 (1)(b)(I.5) as follows:

19 **26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules -**
20 **legislative intent - repeal.**

1 (1) **Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.**

2 (b) (I) ~~In establishing the calculation for determining the amount~~
3 ~~of an eligible applicant's or participant's basic cash assistance grant, the~~
4 ~~state department shall ensure that the amount of the basic cash assistance~~
5 ~~grant that a participant or applicant receives for the state fiscal year~~
6 ~~commencing July 1, 2022, is equal to or exceeds one hundred percent of~~
7 ~~the amount of basic cash assistance in 2021, plus ten percent. For the state~~
8 ~~fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024~~ JULY 1, 2028, and each state fiscal
9 year thereafter, the amount of basic cash assistance must be equal to or
10 exceed the amount of basic cash assistance for the previous state fiscal
11 year plus ~~a two percent cost of living adjustment or a cost of living~~
12 ~~adjustment that is equal to the average of the federal social security~~
13 ~~administration's cost of living adjustment for that fiscal year. plus the~~
14 ~~previous two fiscal years, whichever is greater.~~

15 (I.5) (A) FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEARS COMMENCING JULY 1,
16 2026, AND JULY 1, 2027, A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT IS NOT APPLIED
17 TO AN APPLICANT'S OR PARTICIPANT'S BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT.

18 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 31,
19 2028.

20 (III) (B) ~~If the total statewide county TANF reserve falls below~~
21 ~~fifteen percent of the county block grant amount, the general assembly~~
22 ~~shall appropriate money from the Colorado long-term works reserve to~~
23 ~~the county block grant until the balance of the total statewide county~~
24 ~~TANF reserve exceeds fifteen percent of the county block grant amount~~
25 ~~or until the Colorado long-term works reserve falls below twenty-five~~
26 ~~percent of the state block grant amount.~~

27 (C) ~~If the Colorado long-term works reserve falls below~~

1 ~~twenty-five percent of the state block grant amount and the total statewide~~
2 ~~county TANF reserve exceeds fifteen percent of the county block grant~~
3 ~~amount, the counties shall fund the TANF program from available TANF~~
4 ~~funds until the total statewide county TANF reserve falls below fifteen~~
5 ~~percent of the county block grant amount. Counties are only required to~~
6 ~~spend available TANF money, including county TANF reserves and the~~
7 ~~maintenance of effort, for the Colorado works program.~~

8 (IV) ~~Beginning January 2023, and each January thereafter, the~~
9 ~~joint budget committee shall at least annually review the balance of the~~
10 ~~Colorado long-term works reserve and the total statewide county TANF~~
11 ~~reserve, and, if the joint budget committee determines that the balance of~~
12 ~~the Colorado long-term works reserve will fall below twenty-five percent~~
13 ~~of the state block grant amount and the balance of the total statewide~~
14 ~~county TANF reserve will fall below fifteen percent of the county block~~
15 ~~grant amount in the current or next state fiscal year, the general assembly~~
16 ~~shall appropriate money from the state general fund or the unclaimed~~
17 ~~property trust fund to cover any increase in basic cash assistance above~~
18 ~~the amount of basic cash assistance in state fiscal year 2021-22 until the~~
19 ~~balance of the Colorado long-term works reserve exceeds twenty-five~~
20 ~~percent of the state block grant amount and the total statewide county~~
21 ~~TANF reserve exceeds fifteen percent of the county block grant amount.~~

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709.5, **repeal**
23 (2) as follows:

24 **26-2-709.5. Exit interviews and follow-up interviews of**
25 **participants - reporting.**

26 (2) ~~If the state department, in consultation with counties, identifies~~
27 ~~additional need for funding to administer the works program, the state~~

1 department is strongly encouraged to request state general fund money or,
2 if the balance of the state TANF reserve is greater than the mandatory
3 floor, appropriate additional state TANF money to fund counties'
4 administration of the works program.

5 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-714, **repeal** (11)
6 as follows:

7 **26-2-714. County block grants formula - use of money - rules.**

8 (11) ~~The works allocation committee shall:~~

9 (a) ~~Review, at least quarterly, the balance of the Colorado~~
10 ~~long-term works reserve, the balance of the total statewide county TANF~~
11 ~~reserve, and the amount of basic cash assistance grants provided to~~
12 ~~participants to monitor whether the balance of the Colorado long-term~~
13 ~~works reserve will fall below twenty-five percent of the state block grant~~
14 ~~amount and whether the balance of the total statewide county TANF~~
15 ~~reserve will fall below fifteen percent of the county block grant amount;~~

16 (b) ~~Submit a written report to the joint budget committee detailing~~
17 ~~the current Colorado long-term works reserve level, the total statewide~~
18 ~~county TANF reserve level as a whole and by county, and any projections~~
19 ~~regarding deficits in the reserves; and~~

20 (c) ~~Establish a mitigation fund for counties whose TANF reserves~~
21 ~~fall below fifteen percent of the county's block grant amount.~~

22 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
25 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
26 institutions.



Memorandum

To: Members of the Joint Budget Committee
From: Justin Brakke, JBC Staff (303-866-4958)
Date: April 20, 2026
Subject: Summary and context for LLS 26-1007 (Community Corrections Budget Request and Data)

Summary

The bill requires the Division of Criminal Justice's (DCJ) Office of Community Corrections (OCC, the Office) to more actively manage the community corrections budget. This would reduce the need for the JBC to manage the community corrections system through complicated Long Bill footnotes and requests for information (RFIs).

The bill does two main things. First, it defines terms that currently exist in statute.¹ These definitions aim to encourage a strategic conversation between the Division and the General Assembly. Specifically, it defines:

- distribution of offender populations
- program availability
- projected need.

Second, it requires the Division to submit annual budget requests with specific information about community corrections caseload and rates. This information should allow the JBC to remove the current Long Bill footnotes from the FY 2027-28 budget.

Context: A lack of active budget management by the Department in last two decades

Readers who want to skip the context should go to page 4 of this memo.

The Office of Community Corrections (OCC)

The DCJ's Office of Community Corrections has a budget of \$2.8 million General Fund and 19.4 FTE. The Office added 4.0 FTE in FY 2018-19, 1.0 FTE in FY 2023-24, and 1.0 FTE in FY 2024-25.

The role of Long Bill footnotes in appropriations for community corrections

Complicated Long Bill footnotes and funding mechanisms have dominated the community corrections budget for many years. The footnotes themselves have largely been driven by the JBC and JBC staff, pressure from stakeholders, and a lack of engagement and alternatives from the Department and stakeholders. Stakeholders and the Department recently opposed JBC staff's proposed changes to those footnotes.² The proposed bill (LLS

¹ Section 17-27-108 (3), C.R.S.

² https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/fy2024-25_pubsaffig2.pdf Pages 45-52

26-1007) is a step toward removing most community corrections footnotes from the Long Bill for FY 2027-28, while requiring the Department to more actively engage in budgeting for community corrections.

Since FY 2012-13³, the Long Bill has included a footnote that establishes various assumptions about the main appropriation for community corrections, along with specified per-diem reimbursement rates for different types of service. Prior to the footnote, specific line item names showed specific per-diem rates.

Placement Type	Rates			Caseload			Funds
	Base	Differential	Total	Diversion	Transition	Parole	
Standard Residential	\$37.74	\$0.00	\$37.74	1,270.0	1,541.5	70.0	\$39,692,951
Intensive Residential Treatment	\$37.74	\$17.78	\$55.52	43.0	42.0	35.0	\$2,431,776
Inpatient Therapeutic Community	\$37.74	\$14.34	\$52.08	114.0	69.0	5.0	\$3,573,730
Residential Dual Diagnosis Treatment	\$37.74	\$33.02	\$70.76	50.0	54.0	20.0	\$3,202,598
John Eachon Re-entry Program	\$37.74	\$52.80	\$90.54	0.0	15.0	0.0	\$495,706
Sex Offender Residential	\$37.74	\$33.02	\$70.76	8.0	8.0	10.0	\$671,512
Standard Non-residential	\$5.12	\$0.00	\$5.12	970.0	0.0	0.0	\$1,812,736
Outpatient Day Treatment	\$33.27	\$0.00	\$33.27	8.0	0.0	0.0	\$97,148
<u>Outpatient Therapeutic Community</u>	\$13.32	\$0.00	\$13.32	<u>52.0</u>	<u>52.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>\$505,627</u>
Total				2,515.0	1,781.5	140.0	\$52,483,784

Footnote 49 for HB 12-1335

Footnotes have also played a large role in other community corrections appropriations, such as facility payments. These flat-rate payments to providers were conceived by a prior JBC staffer for FY 2014-15. The mechanism aimed to help smaller providers stay financially viable. It also aimed to achieve very specific staffing ratios and salaries across dozens of providers spread out across the entire state. The following footnote was attached to the appropriation in FY 2014-15.⁴ Current JBC staff argues that this model is band-aid that has since been divorced from its original design. Staff also argues that it is an overly-complicated attempt to micromanage staffing and compensation outcomes among dozens of providers.⁵

"Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Community Corrections, Community Corrections Facility Payments -- It is the intent of the General Assembly that facilities use these payments to increase case manager and security staff member compensation and reduce the number of residents assigned to each case manager.

These payments may be withheld in whole or in part from facilities that (1) fail to maintain a ratio of at least one case manager for every 20 residents, (2) fail to raise average pay and benefits of security staff members by at least 10 percent, or (3) fail to raise the average pay and benefits of case managers by 10 percent. A facility is exempt from requirement (2) if the sum of average pay and benefits for security staff members exceeds \$33,000 annually. A facility is exempt from requirement (3) if the sum of average salary and benefits for case managers exceeds \$38,500 annually. For purposes of this footnote, payroll taxes are not benefits. Community corrections programs are encouraged to exceed these goals."

The Department submitted very few caseload adjustments over past 17 years

The Department submitted one caseload adjustment for the next budget year between FY 2010-11 and FY 2024-25. The JBC staff consequently initiated caseload adjustments in all but two of these years, usually based on an JBC request for information.

³ <https://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2012A/csl.nsf/BillFoldersAll?OpenFrameSet> HB 12-1335. Page 201.

⁴ <https://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2014A/csl.nsf/BillFoldersAll?OpenFrameSet> HB 14-1336. Page 215.

⁵ https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/figcb7-03-21-25_0.pdf. Page 7.

In FY 2021-22, the Department of Public Safety submitted a caseload request to reduce the community corrections budget by \$22.0 million General Fund and move to an open bidding model for services. The Department of Corrections' prison caseload request assumed that the prison population would increase by 765 as a result of the DCJ's request. In short, it was expected that providers would be bidding for services at much higher rates despite a much lower appropriation, leading to a large decrease in community corrections capacity. The DCJ submitted caseload adjustments in the last two budget cycles (FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27). Though better than nothing, these requests did not provide sufficient information about how to adjust the related footnote. Furthermore, they followed on the heels of a JBC staff argument to remove community corrections footnotes from the Long Bill.⁶

The Department submitted one targeted rate adjustment over the past two decades

The Department submitted zero targeted rate adjustments for community corrections in the two decades prior to the current budget cycle. The Department only submitted common policy rate adjustments. These common policy requests tracked well below inflation and lacked information about the viability of community corrections rates.⁷ The JBC staff filled the void by writing extensively about the per-diem rate and initiating at least four targeted rate adjustments, along with other funding mechanisms (e.g. the facility payment).

The Department sometimes evaded direct JBC questions about the per-diem rate. In 2014, the JBC asked, "What would be a fair provider rate?" The Department responded with "The Department believes that the [common policy] rate proposed by the Office of State Planning and Budgeting is sufficient to support current operations. The executive branch is open to working with JBC staff to improve community corrections."⁸ In 2022, the JBC asked "Why does the Department not request targeted rate changes?" The Department argued that it did not have the information it needed to make a defensible request, though it did not seek a solution to that problem.⁹

However, in the FY 2021-22 budget cycle, the Department argued that the Long Bill footnote structure for per-diem rates hindered the community corrections system.¹⁰

"The set per diem rate does not (1) create competition, (2) allow for flexibility in consideration of location specific costs, (3) allow flexibility of programming....Allocation need is driven by caseload and length of stay; a set per diem does not incentivize a reduction in either of these factors. The set per diem rate also inhibits the Department from using financial resources as a way to incentive effective performance, as payment is tied to caseload and not outcomes for parolees."¹¹

The JBC denied the request, which was estimated to increase the DOC prison population by 765. However, the DCJ was provided with an opportunity to double down on the proposal two years later.¹² It demurred, arguing against its prior proposal and in favor of the financial audit recommended by JBC staff.¹³

In sum, the Department has not been actively managing the community corrections budget. This task has largely fallen on the JBC and JBC staff.

⁶ https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/fy2024-25_pubsaffig2.pdf Pages 45-52

⁷ https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/fy2025-26_comfig2.pdf Page 5

⁸ https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/pubsafhrg2_1.pdf Page 8

⁹ https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/fy2023-24_pubsafhrg2.pdf Page 5

¹⁰ In FY 2021-22 R02 Community Corrections Grants (see link in Footnote 10)

¹¹ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CLtE2VxscajjeGfrU3SwZSJWKx_ExhVR Page 3-20

¹² https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/fy2023-24_pubsafbrf2.pdf Page 28

¹³ https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/fy2023-24_pubsafhrg2.pdf Page 4

Explanation of bill sections

Section 1: Definitions

Section 1 defines terms that already exist in Section 17-27-108 (3), which reads as follows:

"The division of criminal justice shall allocate appropriations for community corrections to local community corrections boards and community corrections programs in a manner which considers the distribution of offender populations and supports program availability proportionate to such distribution and projected need."

The bill defines three terms in this statute: distribution of offender populations, program availability, and projected need.

- Distribution of offender populations means "the total number of offenders in, and the total number of offenders approved for placement in, a community corrections program, by judicial district." This definition aims to account for the demand for community corrections services under current law, including waitlists for programs.
- Program availability means "the number of available community corrections beds and a community corrections programs' financial viability when considering the state's reimbursement rate and other state and non-state sources of revenue." This definition requires the OCC to take some responsibility for figuring out the financial means necessary to make a certain number of beds available. It does not require the OCC to seek bailouts for failing providers. Rather, if a provider has been underperforming and is financially weak, the DCJ should consider what the state would need to pay to encourage new providers to replace those beds.
- Projected need means the Division's best estimate of the future distribution of offender populations in community corrections, by judicial district and placement type, based on:
 - (a) correctional population projections pursuant to section 24-33.5-503 (m), C.R.S,
 - (b) the number of offenders expected to be eligible for a community corrections referral under existing law,
 - (c) the number of offenders under the DOC's supervision and offenders referred from the courts that are expected to be accepted into community corrections programs,
 - (d) knowledge of expected changes in program capacity and availability.

This definition requires the Division to make an attempt to estimate future caseload needs. The requirement is a more advanced version of estimates that the Division used to make in its responses to an annual JBC request for information.¹⁴ Nobody can perfectly predict the future. However, JBC staff contends that it is reasonable to expect that agencies responsible for managing caseload-oriented systems make a good-faith effort to estimate and plan for caseload.

¹⁴ https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/fy2023-24_pubsaffig2.pdf Pages 39-42

Section 2: Budget request requirement

Section 2 requires the Department of Public Safety to submit an annual community budget request as a part of the Nov. 1 annual budget package. This mirrors the prison and medical caseload adjustments submitted by the Department of Corrections. It requires that the adjustments include certain information. These requirements are based on former JBC RFIs and the language the DCJ uses in its contracts with judicial districts.

JBC staff recommends a budget request requirement because a budget request cannot be ignored as easily as a report or an RFI. It also requires the Division to make calculations and propose budget changes when appropriate. An RFI still requires JBC staff to calculate and initiate changes in appropriations, rather than evaluate the Department's calculations. The Division's former RFI responses often excluded the information needed to make various calculations. So, not only was JBC staff (1.0 FTE) expected to initiate and calculate budget decisions for the entire community corrections system, the Office of Community Corrections (15-20 FTE) often failed to provide the information that was necessary to accomplish that task.

The Division is not required to request changes in appropriations, but it is required to include a request in its annual budget package along with the following information.

- The projected need in the next fiscal year, including any changes from current levels, for all placement types.
- A summary of the factors driving the projected need.
- An explanation of how the requested appropriation and the expected allocation relate to the projected need. This shall include any identified differences between the distribution of offender populations, program availability, and projected need in judicial districts.
- An explanation of planned or requested changes in per-diem reimbursement rates, relative to the current fiscal year.
- The projected allocation of the requested appropriation for community corrections placements, by judicial district. The projected allocation of the appropriation shall include six data points related to the expected number of beds, per-diem rates, and fund sources.
 - The data points required by this subsection (Page 4, lines 6-27) are based on information in the DCJ's contracts with judicial districts, as shown below. A key difference is that the expected per-diem rates, by program, would also be included.

Breakdown of Services	
Residential Services 484 Beds	\$ 12,435,097.40
COP IRT 10 Beds	\$ 256,923.50
Non Residential Slots 111 Slots	\$ 402,719.10
Correctional Treatment Funds	\$ 260,000.00
Facility Payments 2 @76,321.36	\$ 152,642.72
Board Administrative Funds	<u>\$ 499,426.33</u>
Total	\$ 14,006,809.05

- Subsection (C) on page 4, lines 13-15, asks to the Division to note whether they are expecting to provide facility payments.
- Lastly, subsection (b) of section 2 (Page 5, lines 1-8) requires the Department to tell the Judiciary Committees about any identified differences between the current distribution of offender populations, program availability, and projected need. For example, are there waitlists? If so, where? Which jurisdictions lack "program availability" to support the current and "projected need?"

Alternative to consider

There is an alternative to consider in lieu of this bill and other items in the FY 2026-27 budget (e.g. \$400,000 for centralized community corrections referrals). This alternative could save about \$3.6 million General Fund and consists of the following steps:

- Strike Article 27 (Community Corrections Programs) of Title 18 (Corrections)
- Relocate the Office of Community Corrections (OCC) from the Department of Public Safety to the Division of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). Specifically, move most of Section 17-27-108 (2) under DORA's purview. The OCC would focus on establishing and enforcing regulatory standards. Make conforming changes to Section 18-1.3-301 (Authority to place offenders in community corrections programs) and other statutes as needed to reflect these changes.
- Give the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Judicial Department the authority to contract directly with providers for residential and non-residential services. Providers could retain some say in whether an offender is acceptable for the services they offer.
- Reduce appropriations by a little over \$3.2 million General Fund. This consists of \$2.8 million for obsolete community corrections boards, about \$400,000 for a reduced FTE footprint in the OCC, and \$400,000 for centralized community corrections referrals.
- Redistribute the remaining \$86.8 million General Fund budget for community corrections from the Department of Public Safety to the DOC and Judicial Department.
- Reallocate about \$2.4 million General Fund and 15.4 FTE to DORA, mirroring the statutory relocation for the OCC.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
4/17/26

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LLS NO. 26-1007.01 Owen Hatch x2698

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Community Corrections Budget Request & Data Info

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO**
102 **SUBMIT A COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BUDGET IN ITS ANNUAL**
103 **BUDGET REQUEST.**

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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill requires the department of public safety (department) to submit a budget request for community corrections and to include in its budget request information regarding projected community corrections program needs, including certain data points and analysis related to residential and nonresidential bed capacity,

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

the per diem reimbursement rate for each bed type, and other guideposts related to community corrections appropriations.

The department must include information on the budget request in its yearly "SMART Act" hearing.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-27-102, **amend**
3 the introductory portion; and **add** (3.7), (6.3), and (6.7) as follows:

4 **17-27-102. Definitions.**

5 As used in this article 27, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
6 REQUIRES:

7 (3.7) "DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENDER POPULATIONS" MEANS THE
8 TOTAL NUMBER OFFENDERS IN, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENDERS
9 APPROVED FOR PLACEMENT IN, A COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM, BY
10 JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

11 (6.3) "PROGRAM AVAILABILITY" MEANS THE NUMBER OF
12 AVAILABLE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BEDS AND A COMMUNITY
13 CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS' FINANCIAL VIABILITY WHEN CONSIDERING THE
14 STATE'S REIMBURSEMENT RATE AND OTHER STATE AND NONSTATE
15 SOURCES OF REVENUE.

16 (6.7) "PROJECTED NEED" MEANS THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL
17 JUSTICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY'S BEST ESTIMATE OF THE
18 FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENDER POPULATIONS IN COMMUNITY
19 CORRECTIONS, BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT AND PLACEMENT TYPE, BASED ON:

20 (a) CORRECTIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS PURSUANT TO
21 SECTION 24-33.5-503 (1)(m);

22 (b) THE NUMBER OF INMATES EXPECTED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A
23 REFERRAL TO COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS UNDER EXISTING LAW;

1 (c) THE NUMBER OF OFFENDERS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF
2 CORRECTIONS' SUPERVISION AND THE NUMBER OF OFFENDERS REFERRED
3 FROM THE COURTS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO BE ACCEPTED INTO COMMUNITY
4 CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS; AND

5 (d) THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE'S KNOWLEDGE OF
6 EXPECTED CHANGES IN PROGRAM CAPACITY AND AVAILABILITY.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-27-108, **add** (8)
8 as follows:

9 **17-27-108. Division of criminal justice in the department of**
10 **public safety - duties - community corrections contracts - audit -**
11 **report.**

12 (8) (a) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL INCLUDE A
13 BUDGET REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS AND
14 SERVICES IN ITS BUDGET REQUEST SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SECTION
15 2-3-208 TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
16 INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN ITS BUDGET REQUEST:

17 (I) THE PROJECTED NEED IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR, INCLUDING
18 ANY CHANGES FROM CURRENT LEVELS OF NEED, FOR ALL PLACEMENT
19 TYPES;

20 (II) A SUMMARY OF THE FACTORS DRIVING THE PROJECTED NEED;

21 (III) AN EXPLANATION OF HOW THE REQUESTED APPROPRIATION
22 IN THE BUDGET REQUEST AND THE PROJECTED ALLOCATION RELATE TO THE
23 PROJECTED NEED. THE EXPLANATION MUST INCLUDE ANY IDENTIFIED
24 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENDER POPULATIONS,
25 PROGRAM AVAILABILITY, AND PROJECTED NEED AMONG JUDICIAL
26 DISTRICTS.

27 (IV) AN EXPLANATION OF PLANNED OR REQUESTED CHANGES IN

1 PER DIEM REIMBURSEMENT RATES RELATIVE TO THE CURRENT FISCAL
2 YEAR; AND

3 (V) THE PROJECTED ALLOCATION OF THE REQUESTED
4 APPROPRIATION FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PLACEMENTS, BY JUDICIAL
5 DISTRICT. THE PROJECTED ALLOCATION MUST INCLUDE:

6 (A) THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF STANDARD RESIDENTIAL BEDS AND
7 THE EXPECTED PER DIEM REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR THOSE BEDS, BY
8 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM, PAID OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND;

9 (B) THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF NONRESIDENTIAL SLOTS AND THE
10 EXPECTED PER DIEM REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR THOSE SLOTS, BY
11 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM, PAID OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND;

12 (C) IF APPLICABLE, FIXED PAYMENTS FOR PROGRAMS THAT ARE
13 INDEPENDENT OF THE NUMBER OF OFFENDERS IN A COMMUNITY
14 CORRECTIONS PROGRAM, PAID OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND;

15 (D) THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED BEDS, BY TYPE, AND
16 THE EXPECTED PER DIEM RATE FOR THOSE BEDS, BY COMMUNITY
17 CORRECTIONS PROGRAM, PAID OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND;

18 (E) THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED BEDS, BY TYPE, AND
19 THE EXPECTED PER DIEM RATE FOR THOSE BEDS, BY COMMUNITY
20 CORRECTIONS PROGRAM, PAID OUT OF NON-GENERAL FUND SOURCES,
21 INCLUDING THE CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT CASH FUND CREATED IN
22 SECTION 18-19-103;

23 (F) THE PROJECTED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY
24 CORRECTIONS BOARDS;

25 (G) ANY OTHER PROJECTED ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATIONS NOT
26 RELATED TO SUBSECTIONS (8)(a)(V)(A) TO (8)(a)(V)(F) OF THIS SECTION.

27 (b) BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2027, AND IN JANUARY EVERY YEAR

1 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL INCLUDE, AS
2 PART OF ITS PRESENTATION DURING ITS "SMART ACT" HEARING
3 REQUIRED BY SECTION 2-7-203, INFORMATION REGARDING ANY IDENTIFIED
4 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CURRENT DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENDER
5 POPULATIONS, PROGRAM AVAILABILITY, AND PROJECTED NEED.

6 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
9 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
10 institutions.



Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee
From: Amanda Bickel, JBC Staff (303-866-4960)
Date: April 21, 2026
Subject: S.B. 25-315 (Postsecondary Workforce Readiness) Clean-up Bill

The Department of Education previously requested a bill to change statute for the Postsecondary Workforce Readiness (PWR) Start-up Fund created under S.B. 25-315 so that the available funds were not spread so far that the amounts were insignificant. Under current law, the money is allocated to all public local education providers and includes allocations to individual charter schools.

The appropriation was \$4.5 million in FY 2025-26 and will be \$9.8 million in FY 2026-27. Funding is formula-based, using factors that include prior participation in PWR and free and reduced lunch, chronic absenteeism rates, dropout rates, and graduation rates. Recipients must spend the funds on qualified related expenses.

The State Board of Education has already authorized distribution of the FY 2025-26 funding. There are 1,877 schools in Colorado, including over 700 public high schools, so allocations are small.

Staff does not recommend proceeding with a related bill in the 2026 legislative session. Based on further communication with the Department and the Charter School Institute, there does not appear to be a good near-term solution to this problem that does not create a different set of challenges. This program only exists through FY 2027-28. In FY 2028-29, the related funding is moved to a grant program to support postsecondary workforce start-up initiatives: John W. Buckner postsecondary and workforce readiness innovation grant program.

Staff believes that start-up funding is most appropriately distributed through grants, while ongoing funding is best allocated via formula. Given this, Staff is open to a potential statutory change during the 2027 session that would move up the grant program to FY 2027-28, rather than beginning it in FY 2028-29. However, given the current point in the legislative session, staff is not recommending any related statutory changes in the 2026 legislative session.



Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee
From: Amanda Bickel, JBC Staff (303-866-4960)
Date: April 21, 2026
Subject: Higher Education Open Educational Resources Legislation

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Committee either set aside funds for H.B. 26-1016 (Continuation of Open Educational Resources Program) or sponsor a JBC bill to continue the operation of the State's Open Educational Resources (OER) program for an additional 5 years.

Open Educational Resources (OER) are high-quality learning materials that are in the public domain or shared under licenses that allow free use, adaptation and redistribution. The state Open Educational Resources program funds a 1.0 FTE position, statewide conferences, and grants for institutions, faculty and institutional staff to support the development of OER courses and complete degrees with zero textbook costs. Instead of requiring students to pay for textbooks and materials, faculty adapt existing OER textbooks and materials, or remix or develop entirely new materials for their students, which are then available for free use by their students and any other faculty/institution.

Given the State's tight budget situation, staff would only recommend ongoing funding for a program staff felt offered extraordinary benefits. Staff believes this program meets that test: **the program estimates an 11x return-on-investment in student savings for the grant-funds spent over six years.** If the Committee is able to identify sufficient funds, staff would recommend funding the program at a continuation level of **\$1.1 million**. However, if this is not feasible at this time, staff recommends authorizing **\$661,500** for FY 2026-27, with a potential for increases/full funding restoration in FY 2027-28 or a subsequent year. This would allow for grant funding of \$500,000, rather than \$1.0 million, while retaining other program components.

JBC Action To Date

Statutory authorization for the State's OER program sunsets November 1, 2026, and funding is therefore not included in the Long Bill. The Governor's November 1, 2025, budget request proposed that the JBC set aside funds for the program, but *because a bill had already been proposed outside of the JBC (H.B. 26-1016 by Rep. Phillips), JBC Staff did not include a related recommendation in the higher education figure setting packet.* The bill idea was only presented to the JBC by the staff director as one of a list of items in the November 1 request that the JBC had not addressed during staff figure setting presentations, and the JBC took no action.

Key Considerations

- **This is the only higher education program JBC Staff has ever identified where a modest infusion of state funds can drive substantial savings for postsecondary students.** State investments over the first six years of the program totaled \$5.35 million. This has saved students an estimated \$59.7 million in textbook costs over this time period.
- The JBC itself launched this program and has been the source of all three bills thus far to create and maintain the initiative in 2017, 2018, and 2021.
- JBC Staff originally championed the program because of cost savings for students. *At a community college, the cost of materials can add 20 percent or more to the cost of tuition.* Further, studies have shown:
 - The cost of materials creates a significant barrier for many students, who will drop out of courses or fail courses because they do not obtain needed materials.¹
 - An added benefit is educational quality. Peer-reviewed OER materials are of similar or superior quality to expensive textbooks, and materials that are developed/re-mixed by faculty lead to similar or better student outcomes than courses taught from a standard textbook. This is confirmed in both national studies² and studies at individual Colorado institutions described in the Colorado OER report.
- The state’s OER program has made impressive progress in the eight years in which it has been in operation. The potential for program expansion is evident at those institutions that have fully embraced this approach; however, there are still many institutions where OER courses make up a relatively small share of total offerings. Zero-textbook-cost degrees—programs where students are promised that they will have little or no cost for materials associated with their entire degree program—are growing, but are still represent a small share of total degree programs offered.
- Institutions that have embraced OER may be able to sustain the effort without additional state investment. However, particularly for smaller institutions, *State* staff continue to play a critical role in helping to educate key institutional staff (usually librarians) on how to support and grow OER at their institutions. Further, the state level program supports collaboration *across* institutions. For example, the program is sponsoring the collaborative development of OER nursing program materials across multiple institutions.
- Eventually a state program may not be required, because higher education institutions will reach a “tipping point” at which OER will be the first option faculty consider before redesigning a course. However, change is slow at higher education institutions, and there is still lots of room for growth. Given the strength of the current state program, staff believes that the best and most efficient use of state resources would be to continue the program, rather than allow it to lapse and potentially attempt to recreate it at a later date.

¹ This has been demonstrated in a wide range of studies, such as those referenced here:
<https://openpraxis.org/articles/10.55982/openpraxis.15.2.554>

² <https://openedgroup.org/the-review-project/>

Analysis

Background

Open educational resources (OER) are high-quality teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others.

The Joint Budget Committee initiated Colorado’s efforts to promote the use of OER in higher education and sponsored all subsequent bills.

- S.B. 17-258 - Created the OER Council and authorized a study;
- H.B. 18-1331 – Added OER grants, 1.0 FTE, and retained the OER Council for 3 years; and
- H.B. 21-215 - Continued grants, 1.0 FTE, and the OER Council for 5 years, with adjustments to strengthen the program.

The program includes the following components, described in more detail below. *The grant program component is scalable. If required for balancing, grant costs could be reduced from the current \$1.0 million for one or more years.* For example, if the JBC only wished to provide \$500,000 for grants in FY 2026-27, the overall program cost would be \$661,500.

Higher Education OER Program

Program Components	Cost
Personal Services (1.0 FTE)	\$89,718
Operating Expenses	1,280
OER Council [minimal/absorbed in operating]	0
Conferences & Training	50,000
OER Publishing & Repository	20,500
Grant Program [scalable]	946,704
Total	\$1,108,202
Centrally appropriated	22,845
Cost with centrally-appropriated	\$1,131,047

OER Council and Staff

The state’s 12-member OER Council has been an important resource for helping shape this program. It is comprised of faculty members (5), librarians (3), instructional design and IT experts (1 of each), an IHE administrator, a student, the Executive Director of DHE (or designee) and the Commission of Education (or designee).³ Except for the designee of the Commission of Education, members are appointed by the Executive Director of DHE.

³ H.B. 26-1016, as introduced, increases the Council to 15, adding an additional library professional, an additional instructional design expert, and an additional administrator.

In JBC Staff's experience, the enthusiasm and effort of the Council members, who serve without compensation⁴, combined with energy and competence of the program's single paid position, have been critical to the program's success.

- Council duties include: recommending statewide policies for promoting adaptation, creation, and use of OER at Colorado public institutions of higher education; facilitating professional development and sharing of knowledge about OER; implementing the OER grant program; and submitting an annual report to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the General Assembly on the use of OER and the impact of the grant program.
- The 1.0 FTE position in the Department of Higher Education works with the Council to implement the program. Duties include coordinating the grant program, OER conferences, OER council meetings, the OER annual report, and hands-on technical assistance to institutions.

Given that the program includes only a single paid position, JBC Staff believes the program's accomplishments are particularly impressive.

OER Grant Program

The OER grant program provides grants:

- to public institutions of higher education to promote the use of OER at the institutions;
- to faculty and staff, individually or in groups, to create and adapt open educational resources.
- to public institutions to support development, implementation, and replication of zero-textbook-cost degree programs.

The OER Council, working with the Department, is responsible for grant program details and for recommending grant awards, which must be approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

As outlined in statute, grant program requirements are expected to (1) promote and support the use of OER throughout the institutions that receive grant funding; and (2) maximize the use of any materials the state helps fund. For example, in making recommendations and awarding grants, the Council and the Commission must consider whether the application:

- affects courses with high student enrollment or high textbook/materials costs;
- affects high-impact courses such as core courses and those included in concurrent enrollment; and
- supports the adaptation or development of OER by teams of faculty, librarians, and instructional designers across multiple institutions, increasing the likelihood that the program will be used by multiple courses or sections.

To treat institutions fairly, the program has established a typical "stipend" amount for transitioning a course to OER. These "stipends" are built into larger grants for institutions or faculty collaborations. For example, the program will typically award \$1,500 to adopt an OER textbook and revise related syllabus and assignments, \$2,000 to customize estimating OER, and \$5,000 or more to author a new OER multi-chapter book or similar resource.

⁴ Council members may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses.

Related Requirements

Pursuant to Section 23-1-134, C.R.S. (also part of OER legislation), public institutions of higher education are required to ensure that students are informed prior to course registration which courses and sections use OER or other low-cost materials. Beginning Fall 2025, institutions are required to also include this information at the point of course registration, i.e., the information must be part of their course catalogs.

The Department and staff anticipate that this change will both promote expansion of OER and increase the quality of reporting on OER from institutions. Under current law, an annual report on adoption of OER continues, even if the grant program ends, though it will be hard to maintain momentum without the formal structure of the Council, 1.0 FTE, and grant program.

Program Impact Thus Far

The most recent Colorado [OER Report](#) highlights the importance of the program and its expansion since Colorado launched its state OER program eight years ago.⁵

- Through state funding, over 2,300 courses have been converted to OER, providing estimated savings of \$59.7 million for students.
- 176,000 students (duplicated count) were enrolled in a an OER course at a Colorado public institution in FY 2024-25. This is almost equal to total student FTE (there were 188,733 student FTE enrolled in Colorado public institutions in FY 2024-25).
- Public institutions report estimated annual textbook savings of \$20.6 million for courses using OER in FY 2024-25 at the institutions that received grant funding that year.

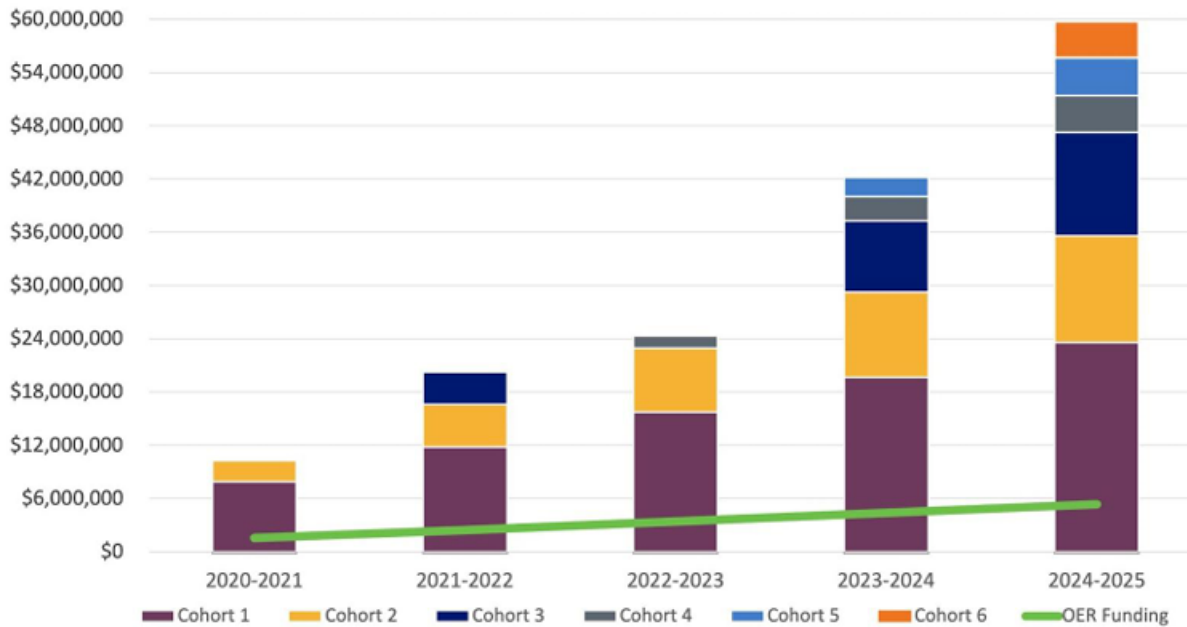
As noted in the report summary:

- “Nationally, public two-year students spend an average of \$1,570, and public four-year students spend \$1,330 per year on books and supplies, an increase from \$1,470 and \$1,250 in 2023, respectively [College Board data]. In Colorado, 48% of students at Arapahoe Community College said textbook costs impacted their course selection.
- The use of OER has also seen significant growth, with Colorado institutions reporting an increase of more than 300 new OER or ZTC courses in the past year, and nationally, 49% of faculty reported using OER materials in at least one course....
- There are 17 completed ZTC [zero textbook cost] degrees and certificates at institutions across the state, with an additional 29 ZTC degrees and certificates in progress or proposed.
- The 2025 Colorado OER Conference had 224 faculty, librarians, instructional designers, administrators, and students register attendance, up from 189 in 2024.
- In the past year, the director of open education and OER Council coordinated more than 30 hours of OER webinars, launched OER learning communities focused on advocating for open education and artificial intelligence, and embarked on an OER roadshow to rural institutions.
- The eighth cycle of the state OER grant program received its largest application pool in September 2025 with 35 proposals.”

⁵ https://higher.ed.colorado.gov/publications/Reports/Legislative/OER/OER_Report_2025_Final.pdf

The Department calculates savings of about \$3.2 million per year for students for every \$1.0 million in OER grants. But, as reflected in the report, **once a course has been shifted to OER, these savings grow**. Redesigning a course take significant faculty time and effort, and a newly redesigned course will typically be retained for multiple years. Thus, the student savings from redesigning a single course grow over time, resulting in the Department estimate of 11x savings to students for every \$1 invested in OER grants

Figure 1: Compounded OER Grant Program Cost Savings Cohorts 1-6 (Assuming Continued Use)



The annual report includes extensive information about the impact of the program at multiple institutions. Currently, the program only has data on OER course offerings at recent grantee institutions. **As shown, the “penetration” of OER varies substantially across campuses. Adoption at some locations is extraordinary--such as 82% as Colorado Northwestern Community College—while progress is slower at other institutions.**

Table 4: OER Course Offerings by Cohort 6 Grantee Institutions in the 2024-2025 academic year

Institution	Total OER or ZTC Courses	Percentage of total courses
Aims Community College	157	43%
Arapahoe Community College	292	28%
Colorado Community College System	112	18%
Colorado Mesa University	306	Not reported
Colorado Northwestern Community College	77	82%
Colorado School of Mines	73	7%
Colorado State University Pueblo	118	Not reported
Community College of Aurora	69	22%
Fort Lewis College	309	30%
Front Range Community College	1,316	19%
Metropolitan State University	205	9%
Pikes Peak State College	70	6%
Red Rocks Community College	618	17%
University of Northern Colorado	154	4%
Western Colorado University	21	Not reported
University of Colorado System	618	Varies across campuses

Source: Cohort 6 OER Grantee Final Reports

The “zero-textbook-cost” degree program has been a particular focus of recent state efforts, with many new initiatives in progress (annotated with a “^” in the table below).

Institution	Zero Textbook Cost Degrees
Aims Community College	AA^, AS liberal Arts^, AAS early childhood education^
Arapahoe Community College	AA early childhood education^, AAS space studies^
Colorado Community College System	BAS business management
Colorado Northwestern Community College	AA, AS
Colorado School of Mines	MS mechanical engineering
Colorado State University Pueblo	BA Spanish; Master of social work
Community College of Aurora	AA, AS
Community College of Denver	AA
Front Range Community College	BAS business for creative industries, BS nursing^
Metropolitan State University of Denver	BS chemistry^, biology^, social work^; BA communication studies^, construction project management^, hospitality^; Master of social work^
Pikes Peak State College	AA
Red Rocks Community College	AA theatre, AS mathematics^
University of Colorado Anschutz	BS nursing^
University of Colorado Denver	BS mathematics^
University of Northern Colorado	BS mathematics in data science^
Western Colorado University	BS nursing^, MBA^

The annual report includes extensive information about the implementation of the OER program across the state. A few examples include:

- Faculty at UNC used a \$1,375 grant-funded stipend to shift UNC’s entry-level astronomy course to OER. This replaced a \$180 textbook in a class in which 277 students enroll annually.
- A faculty member at MSU Denver authored an Introduction to Construction Project Management with a \$5,000 grant-funded stipend, which replaced an \$85 textbook.
- A collaborative project led by CU Anschutz developed an open source Anatomy Hub of 3D printable anatomical models. This can be used for K-12, medicine degrees, and health care trainings and can be seen [here](#).