



## *eCounty Lines*

August 8, 2017

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## Winter Conference Education Will Focus on County Finances



*By John (Chip) Taylor*

As summer winds down, staff activity is ramping up! The legislative staff is turning their attention towards the legislation CCI members are considering, as well as the ideas we are hearing from other interest groups. We are also finalizing draft budgets for the CCI family of companies and, as you can see below, opening the doors on registration for the winter conference!

In that regard, we are very close to finalizing what we believe will be a powerful line-up of sessions and speakers at our CCI Foundation Winter Conference scheduled November 27-29 in El Paso County. We have chosen the theme “Focus on Finances” because many of you have told us that your biggest challenges right now are fiscal – balancing your budgets by enhancing revenues and trimming (where possible) county expenditures. Your jobs have been made even tougher by the uncertainties surrounding state and federal funding, constitutional fiscal requirements and, in many cases, disruptions in local economies.

We have been looking at member surveys, solicited feedback from CCI’s officers and chairs, and monitored the issues that have an impact on counties and are of concern to county commissioners. Our current agenda includes workshops on creating public-private partnerships to fund county needs; creative ways to fund courthouses and jails; financing options for transportation and other infrastructure; managing property tax restrictions and mandates; and looking at industrial hemp as a possible economic driver in your county.

We are also considering submissions for conference workshops on high-performing county health departments; commissioners’ roles in emergency management; working with urban renewal authorities; the opioid crisis; and strategic communications (Telling Your County Story 2.0).

We want to ensure that the conference is valuable for you and includes topics that are relevant and timely and we consider issues that are submitted throughout the year. But if you feel strongly that a certain subject should be covered in the upcoming winter conference, send me an [email](#) or give me a call this week!

I hope your week is terrific!

*John (Chip) Taylor is CCI’s Executive Director.*

### CCI MEETINGS:

#### District Meetings Continue with Mountain, Western August 24-25



Colorado State University

District meetings continue on **August 24 and 25, 2017** with the Mountain and Western gatherings in Frisco and Montrose, respectively. The lunches at these highly interactive and informative events are sponsored by the Colorado State University (CSU) Office of Engagement. Each meeting will begin at 10 am and go until approximately 2 pm. *(continued on the next page)*

The complete schedule of meetings is as follows:

**Mountain District Meeting:** August 24, Summit County Community & Senior Center, 83 Nancy's Place, Frisco

**Western District Meeting:** August 25, Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose

**Southern District Meeting:** September 8, Huerfano County EMS Building, 326 Main Street, Walsenburg

**Eastern District Meeting:** September 15, Washington County Event Center, 551 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Akron

### **Registration Opens This Week for Winter Conference November 27-29**

Online registration for the CCI Foundation's Winter Conference will open this week. The event is set for **November 27-29, 2017** at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado. Early Bird registration discounts are available through **November 1, 2017**. That same date is the cutoff for room accommodations at the hotel at the special conference rate of \$94 per night, single or double occupancy. The conference kicks off with workshops on Monday afternoon, November 27. The reception hosted by CCI President and Larimer County Commissioner Lew Gaiter III is Monday evening. Tuesday, November 28 includes a CTSI-sponsored Opening General Session where Governor John Hickenlooper has been invited to speak; district meetings; the CCI Business Meeting; and the dinner which features CCI and affiliate-group awards. Wednesday, November 29 offers more educational programs and a Grab 'n Go lunch. Sponsors will be on hand to share valuable information and resources with county leaders. The event includes workshops and networking sessions sponsored by the Association of Colorado County Administrators (ACCA), the Colorado Association of Public Health Officials (CALPHO), the Colorado Association of Road Supervisors & Engineers (CARSE), and the Colorado Human Services Directors Association (CHSDA). Later this week, go to [www.ccionline.org](http://www.ccionline.org) for delegate information, tentative schedule, and the registration form.

### **Winter Conference Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available**

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for the CCI Foundation Winter Conference on **November 27-29, 2017** at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado. If you do business with county government, conference sponsorships are a great way to cement existing relationships and establish new ones with over 400 key decision-makers in the multi-billion-dollar county government market for products and services. Our target audience includes county commissioners, administrators, road & bridge supervisors, and human resource specialists. There are four levels of sponsorships plus table-top displays and program advertising. To discuss sponsorship opportunities, call Paul Thompson at 303.861.4076, Ext. 241 or email him at [pthompson@ccionline.org](mailto:pthompson@ccionline.org).

### **IMPORTANT NEWS FOR COUNTIES:**

#### **CCI Releases Policy Memo on Changes to Colorado Open Records Act**

CCI policy staff have prepared a memo that details changes to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) enacted under SB17-40, which was signed into law and takes effect this August. A copy of the policy memorandum is attached to this edition of *eCounty Lines*. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Bergman at CCI at 303.861.4076 or [ebergman@ccionline.org](mailto:ebergman@ccionline.org).

## Colorado Safe Routes to School Program Accepting Grant Applications

The Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is taking applications from counties, cities, towns, schools, and school districts for grants to help build infrastructure and expand non-infrastructure programs. For the fiscal year 2017-2018 cycle of grants, SRTS will offer funding for education, enforcement, and encouragement projects that improve skills and knowledge about safely bicycling and walking to and from school for students from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Funding also is available for infrastructure projects to improve the built environment around elementary and middle schools that increase students' ability to walk and bicycle to school safely. Infrastructure projects are eligible for up to \$350,000 in grant funding, with \$2 million in total funds available, of which \$500,000 is available for projects that focus on education, enforcement, and encouragement. Applications can be found online at [www.codot.gov/programs/bikeped/safe-routes/funding-evaluation](http://www.codot.gov/programs/bikeped/safe-routes/funding-evaluation) and are due **November 1, 2017**. Several training sessions with locations throughout the state are also being offered to provide guidance on the application process. The program dates can be found on that same webpage. Examples of SRTS projects include: train the trainer programs for school-based bicycle and pedestrian education; bicycle and pedestrian safety education and skills training; bike rodeos; crossing guard programs; Tires 'n Tennes Tuesdays or Walking 'n Wheeling Wednesdays encouragement programs; walking school bus and bicycle trains; installation of new sidewalks; placement of traffic signs; pedestrian/bicycle crossing improvements; on-street bicycle lanes; and bike racks. For additional information, contact Leslie Feuerborn at 303.757.9088 or e-mail at [leslie.feuerborn@state.co.us](mailto:leslie.feuerborn@state.co.us).

## Colorado Association for Recycling Invites Your Feedback on Survey



As part of an updated strategic plan, the Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR) wants to improve and enhance the services it provides to Colorado counties. In that regard, between now and **Friday, August 11, 2017**, CAFR is inviting feedback from counties. CCI members can provide input via a survey found at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZXML8RQ>

If you have questions, please contact CCI Legislative and Policy Advocate **Brandy DeLange**.

## CDHS Town Hall Meetings Wrap Up Thursday in Arapahoe, Broomfield

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) is conducting a series of town hall meetings to solicit feedback, comments and suggestions to help inform the direction of the department and priorities for the coming year. The meetings run through **Thursday, August 11, 2017**, with stops in Arapahoe and Broomfield counties. For a complete list of the meetings and to register, click [here](#).

## Garfield County Encourages Support for Federal Rights-of-Way Bills

Congress is once again considering legislation to facilitate the final determination of the existence of rights-of-way across public lands, commonly referred to as "RS 2477 rights-of-way." Garfield County has requested that CCI share the Fact Sheet and sample letter of support attached to this edition of *eCounty Lines*. The "Make Your Voice Heard on Historic Rights-of-Way Legislation" is encompassed in S. 468 and H.R. 3270.

## **INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION/NETWORKING:**

### **Thursday: TANF/CCAP MOU Work Group Meeting at CCI**

In January, several counties began working on edits to the TANF/Child Care Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between each county and the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS). In accordance with statute, counties and CDHS are required to enter into an annual performance contract that explains a county's duties and responsibilities in implementing the Works Program and the Child Care Assistance Program. The work group will be meeting with CDHS to discuss the MOU on **Thursday, August 10, 2017**, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at CCI. All are invited. If you are unable to attend in person, the call-in number is 1.857.216.6700 and the passcode is 171009. Please contact CCI's Legislative and Policy Advocate **Alli Daley** with any questions.

### **August 17: Counties Can Weigh in on Emancipation Age Proposal**

Adopt Colorado Kids is seeking county input on the issue of raising the legal age of emancipation from 18 to 21 for foster youth in Colorado. A research document on the subject is attached to this edition of *eCounty Lines*. The group is looking at potential 2018 legislative changes to help serve kids aging out of foster care. To facilitate county feedback, especially on how the proposal would make a difference in the lives of aging out youth, CCI is hosting a meeting on **August 17, 2017**, from 1 pm to 3 pm. If you are unable to make that day, thorough notes will be taken and shared with everyone afterwards. You can also join by conference call by dialing 1.857.216.6700 and then enter 171009 when prompted for your passcode.

### **August 17: Small Communities Workshop Set for Silverthorne**

The Department of Local Affairs, in partnership with CCI, the Colorado Municipal League and the Special District Association, will be presenting the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Communities Workshop on **August 17, 2017**, in Silverthorne (Summit County). This year's day-long workshop will include sessions on workforce housing, fiscal sustainability, budgeting, recreational tourism, and marijuana issues. Tickets are \$35 per person. To register, please go to <http://dola.colorado.gov/workshops>. A flyer for the workshop is attached to *eCounty Lines*.

### **August 22 and 24: Colorado Rural Health Funding Summit**

The Colorado Rural Health Funding Summit will be held in two locations: Fruita on **August 22, 2017**, and Aurora on **August 24, 2017**. Participants at the free events will learn about funding opportunities and technical assistance available to help rural health care organizations. Subjects include critical infrastructure, health IT, telehealth, and broadband needs. The Fruita venue is the Fruita Community Center (324 N. Coulson Street) and the Aurora venue is the Colorado Rural Health Center (3033 S. Parker Road, Suite 606). Both events run from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Registration is open at 8 am. To register (RSVPs are required), click [here](#) and choose which event you plan to attend.

## **APPOINTMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

### **Special Highway Committee Has Opening for County Commissioner**

CCI is soliciting for a county commissioner to serve on the Special Highway Committee (SHC). The SHC is a cooperative effort between CCI and the Colorado Municipal League that makes recommendations to CDOT on federal off-system bridge fund awards to local governments. The SHC meets once a year (in the late fall) to review applications from municipalities and counties and prioritize projects for funding. There is one spot open on the Special Highway Committee and the CCI Board of Directors will make the appointment later this summer. If you are interested in serving, send a letter detailing your applicable experience and qualifications to Kristin Dunn at CCI by close of business **tomorrow, August 9, 2017**. Kristin can be reached by e-mail at [kdunn@ccionline.org](mailto:kdunn@ccionline.org). If you have any questions about serving on the Special Highway Committee, please call Eric Bergman at CCI at 303.861.4076.

## COUNTY NEWS:

### Adams County Receives Sol-Smart® Award for Solar Energy Growth



SolSmart®, a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy’s SunShot Initiative to help communities increase the use of solar power, has awarded Adams County a gold designation as a national leader in advancing solar energy. The county is one of just 40 nationwide to receive the gold designation, the highest level awarded. To achieve this designation, Adams County took steps to reduce solar “soft costs,” which are non-hardware costs that can increase the time and money needed to install a solar system. “This designation further solidifies our dedication to sustainable practices,” said Board of County Commissioners Chair Eva Henry. “Solar initiatives are a major piece of the Sustainable Adams County 2030 plan, and our departments continue to work as a team to make significant progress on our goals.” For the press release on Adams County’s award, click [here](#). For a blog on SolSmart®, click [here](#). Adams County also recently launched a Going Solar section on its website, providing information and resources for residents, business owners, and solar contractors to learn more about installing solar systems. To learn more about Adams County’s Sustainability program, including solar projects and the Sustainable Adams County 2030 Plan, visit [adcogov.org/sustainability](http://adcogov.org/sustainability).

## ASSOCIATE MEMBER PROFILE:

### BLN Helps Counties Meet Infrastructure, Facilities Needs



The full-service engineering firm of Beam, Longest and Neff, L.L.C. (BLN) is a CCI Associate Member at the Pioneer Level and a powerful partner in helping Colorado counties meet their needs for infrastructure and public facilities. Named one of top design firms in the country by *Engineering News Record*, BLN listens to its clients then presents viable options to help them achieve their goals. From brainstorming, early planning and funding application, through public presentation and design, to final acceptance of their project, BLN provides the leadership necessary for success. Founded in 1945, BLN has evolved over the years to provide a comprehensive menu of professional services, including transportation, bridge, environmental, site design, rights-of-way, surveying, and construction inspection. The Denver-based Colorado office of BLN is led by Bruce Haynes PE, Regional Director for Engineering and Matt Hopper, Regional Director for Governmental Affairs. Matt can be reached at 303.339.0042 or [mhopper@b-l-n.com](mailto:mhopper@b-l-n.com). For more on the company, visit [www.b-l-n.com](http://www.b-l-n.com).

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[www.ccionline.org](http://www.ccionline.org)



**To:** County Commissioners  
County Administrators/Managers  
County Attorneys

**From:** Eric Bergman, CCI Policy Director

**Date:** July 26, 2017

**Re:** Changes to Colorado Open Records Act under SB17-40

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A number of important changes were made to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) this past legislative session. These changes were contained in SB17-40 (enacted in C.R.S. 24-72-203). They will affect all local governments and it will be necessary for counties to review and possibly update their policies with regard to compliance with CORA requests. It is worth noting that CCI opposed this change in the law and worked to secure additional flexibility in the legislation to protect smaller counties that might lack technological resources. These changes to CORA go into effect on August 9, 2017.

### **Documents in Digital Format**

The first set of changes to CORA concern allowing record requestors to request documents in a digital format. Under the new law, if a document otherwise subject to disclosure is stored in a digital and searchable format (such as a Word document) the document **must** be provided in this format, subject to certain exceptions. Similarly, if such a document is stored in a digital and sortable format (such as an Excel or Access file), the document **must** be provided to the requestor in this format (again, subject to certain exceptions).

At the request of CCI and other local government associations, a number of important exceptions were added to the bill to prevent unfunded mandates and other hardships for local governments. The law allows records custodians to **deny** a request for digital records in these searchable or sortable formats under the following conditions:

- If producing the record would violate the terms of a copyright or licensing agreement between the records custodian and a third party; or
- If producing the record would result in the release of a third party's proprietary information; or

- If, after making reasonable inquiries, it is not technologically or practically feasible to provide a copy of the document in this digital format; or
- If, after making reasonable inquiries, it is not technologically or practically feasible to permanently remove information that a records custodian is required or allowed to withhold (such as confidential or protected information) in this digital format; or
- There would be a cost to the records custodian to purchase software or create additional programming or functionality in existing software to remove this confidential or protected information.

If a county denies a request for a document in a digital format for one of these aforementioned reasons, the county is still required to produce the document in an alternative format (such as pdf) and must provide a written declaration attesting to the reason (citing one of the reasons above) the custodian is not able to provide the record in the requested format.

### **Denial of Records Concerning “Physical and Cyber Assets of Critical Infrastructure”**

This new law also allows a county to deny a request for inspection of records that could assist in a terrorist attack on critical utility infrastructure (such as pipelines or water infrastructure). Records custodians may deny a request for records that might divulge “physical and cyber assets of critical infrastructure, including specific engineering, vulnerability, detailed design information, protective measures, emergency response plans, or system operational data of such [critical infrastructure] assets that would be useful to a person in planning an attack on critical infrastructure.” (C.R.S. 24-72-204 (2)(a)(VIII)(A))

### **Custodian’s Liability for Attorney Fees and Changes in Violations/Penalties**

The bill sets forth that in the instance of a refusal to provide a record in an electronic format that results in a court action, the records custodian is only liable for attorney fees if the custodian is found to have acted in an arbitrary or capricious manner. The bill also removes the provision in statute (C.R.S. 24-72-206) that makes it a misdemeanor to knowingly violate CORA.

County commissioners and staff are urged to confer with their information technology personnel and county attorney for a more specific interpretation of this new law and what steps they might want to take in order to comply with it. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Bergman at CCI at 303.861.4076 or [ebergman@ccionline.org](mailto:ebergman@ccionline.org).

## Q and A on Historic Rights-of-Way legislation, S. 468, and H.R. 3270

### What is the fundamental issue, why is legislation required?

Confirmation and Documentation of an existing right-of way on federal land. Counties, and some land owners, lack paper trail on right-of-ways (r/w) for roads on federal public lands even though a r/w may exist under the 1866 mining law that was passed to facilitate settlement and development. R/Ws so created were “self-issuing,” and there was never a requirement to file with either the General Land Office or successive agencies. Construction constituted issuance. Existence confirmed the easement. Over time, such R/Ws may have been recorded in county offices and county transportation plans, but Department of the Interior never officially recorded them, nor issued documentation confirming existence, nor placed on BLM Master Title Plats.

There is no protection to a r/w holder if federal public land disposed, or if a conflicting use proposed and authorized, unless it becomes known during publication and input, but recognition often requires r/w be documented. Further, questions could be raised regarding expenditure of public funds for maintenance where no documentation of easement is in hand by counties. Additionally BLM has recently asserted in at least one county that “the county lacked authority to maintain its existing roads.”

### What does this legislation do?

It provides an administrative means to confirm the existing rights-of-ways. The Department of the Interior has never developed or adopted a process for handling claims and assertions made under R.S. 2477. Even though repealed by FLPMA in 1976, valid existing rights created under the historic law were not extinguished. Confirmation of existence prior to October 21, 1976 is required. Various Secretaries attempted to provide interpretation and process, but often established criteria that were never contemplated in the basic law, and thus have not been accepted by either holders or the Courts.

A 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision in 2005 established a procedure, but requires filing in Federal District Court for quiet title, on case by case basis. Such filings are expensive and time consuming.

### What is the current urgency?

R.S. 2477 was repealed in 1976, 41 years ago. Records and/or witnesses who can affirm existence on date of repeal are disappearing. All methods of resolution require proof of existence at the date of repeal.

### Doesn't BLM have a right-of-process, Title V of FLPMA?

Yes, but applications would require full review and documentation, even for an existing route. Such analysis could raise issues requiring analysis such as why the route even exists, and exists in the current location. As a minimum, such documentation requires analysis and consultation under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act.

The result of such review creates high costs for documentation on an existing route for an existing r/w, and mitigation requirements may result from the documentation leading to the application of terms, conditions and stipulations for continued operation, which could require high cost capital additions or modifications, e.g. tortoise-proof fencing where roads cross habitat.

**Environmental groups have opposed “resolutions” of R.S. 2477 claims, questioning what constitutes a road; and they intervene in cases involving claims and assertions. In advertising they raise the specter of new roads being created in Parks, wilderness and back country. Why do they oppose, and does opposition have a basis?**

We cannot speculate on motivation. Responding to and issuing documentation requires existence prior to 10/21/1976. Issuance of documentation in no way permits new roads, expansion, or realignment of the road as it currently exists. Application of the legislation within National Park units and wilderness areas has been specifically precluded in the current bill.

***Use County letterhead***

***Use the bill reference number for the appropriate House or Senate member to which you are writing this endorsement. HR = House member, S = Senator***

July ----

Hon. *Insert name of Senator or Congressman*

Dear Senator/Congressman -----

HR 3270/S. 468 has been introduced into the House/Senate. The bill provides an expedient and efficient means for counties to confirm rights-of-ways for their transportation systems that exist upon lands that administered by the federal U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We endorse the bill and urge that you support passage quickly in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

These Historic Rights-of-Ways exist under a law that was repealed in 1976, but which honored valid existing rights. Unfortunately, the United States never issued paper documentation for these routes, nor entered them on the official Master Title Plats. Currently, the only means jurisdictions have to confirm the rights-of-way is to file a quiet title action in the Federal District Court. That process is expensive and time consuming. An alternate means is to file for a new right-of-way, but that opens the route to a full review under current federal laws governing location, sensitive species and historic preservation for an existing route.

We urge that you join with other members from throughout the Western Public Lands states, and join in co-sponsorship of the bill within your side of Congress, and approve the bill as it comes up for votes in Committee and on the floor. This is a non-partisan initiative to solve an issue which has sought a solution for 41 years, and which should bring closure to one of the few remaining procedural ruminants from the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Yours truly,

Chairman

**Register Now!**

**5th Annual**

# Small Communities Workshop

*Governance and Intergovernmental Cooperation for Local Government Officials*

Thursday, August 17th @ the Silverthorne Pavilion

Elected and appointed municipal, county, and special district officials from across the state are invited to participate in this day-long workshop, which will provide valuable information and tools to those leading smaller jurisdictions.

Tickets are just \$35 per person.

Workshop will include:

- Housing 101: Investigating your community's housing needs
- Fiscal sustainability and budgeting: Gallagher's local impact
- How to develop recreational tourism in your community
- Marijuana: Challenges and opportunities for small communities

Join us the evening before for a networking mixer with light hors d' oeuvres at The Bakers' Brewery!

**Visit our website to register**

<http://dola.colorado.gov/workshops>

*Proudly presented by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs in partnership with Colorado Counties Inc., the Colorado Municipal League, the Special District Association of Colorado, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, and the Town of Silverthorne*



# RAISING THE LEGAL AGE OF EMANCIPATION FROM 18-21 FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN COLORADO

Stats

## Current Outcomes for Emancipating Youth

### EDUCATIONAL

- 40% OF FOSTER YOUTH WILL NOT GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL BY AGE 19
- DUE TO CONSISTENT INSTABILITY, 40% REPEATED ONE OR MORE GRADES
- BETWEEN 1 AND 11% OF FORMER FOSTER YOUTH WILL GRADUATE COLLEGE

### SOCIAL

- 75% OF FEMALES WILL HAVE BEEN PREGNANT BY AGE 24
- 1 IN 3 WILL EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS
- 1 IN 4 WILL EXPERIENCE PTSD

Argument

### Why 21?

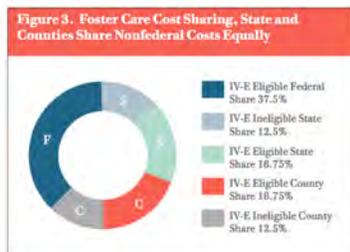
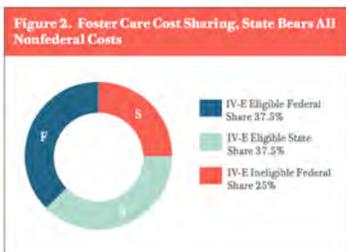
**Emerging Adulthood:** Age 18-25 is a period of as much brain growth and development as infancy. Youth in this age group's brains function by the "use it or lose it" principle where skills and experiences that occur regularly are reinforced to last, and those that do not are pruned and lost.

**Trauma:** Trauma and consistent disruptions stunt emotional health and development.

**Resiliency:** The ability to overcome adverse conditions and function normally in the face of risk. While trauma has caused most of these youth to regress developmentally, the high capacity for brain development of emerging adulthood gives them a high capacity for resiliency, and therefore, full recovery through a "re-wiring" of their brain.

**Permanent Connections:** Just as in infancy, the best development in emerging adulthood occurs when these youth have a safe base for exploration.

**Opportunities** for more planning, decision making, and independent living skills.



I.e. California where 70% of Foster youth are Title IV Eligible:

Table 2: Allocation of the Costs of Extending Care Across Levels of Government

	Title IV-E Ineligible		Title IV-E Eligible		Total
<b>Federal</b>		+	50% * 70%	=	35%
<b>State</b>	40% * 30%	+	40% * 50% * 70%	=	26%
<b>County</b>	60% * 30%	+	60% * 50% * 70%	=	39%
<b>Total</b>	30%	+	70%	=	100%

Argument

### Cost-Benefit Analysis

Studies show, "The Financial benefits of extending foster care--both for individual youth and for society-- outweigh the costs to government by a factor of approximately 2 to 1"

This is due to...

- Increased individual lifetime earnings related to better education outcomes
- Decreased expenditures of public assistance via decreased need for Social Security Income, food stamps, TANF, and other welfare payments.
- Decreased social cost to society by decreased incidence of teen and unplanned pregnancy, incarceration, mental health crises, and homelessness.

Argument

### Legislation & Mechanism

**HB 1079 Chap 83(CO):** Requires the court to consider the individual circumstances of each youth in out-of-home placement who is at least age 17 to determine whether the youth is ready to become independent on reaching age 18 or whether he or she should remain under the care of the county until age 21.

**Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fed):** Youth who turn 18 in care without permanent families can remain in care, at state option, to 19, 20, or 21 with continued federal support. Federal support will constitute 50-83% of total cost depending on the proportion of youth who are eligible for Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

# RAISING THE LEGAL AGE OF EMANCIPATION FROM 18-21 FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN COLORADO

## Action

### Steps to Take

- 1) Leverage your **platform** to spread awareness and advocate for this issue.
- 2) Activate your **network** to take action towards passing legislation to resolve this issue.

Do you know someone who could make a real difference in changing the legal age of emancipation in Colorado? Are you willing to meet with us and them to pursue taking the next step for youth aging out?

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