

2026 Legislative Priority Proposal
Updated: 9/15/25

Addressing County Flexibility in Funding	
Jefferson County (Commissioner Andy Kerr)	
Preferred Contact:	akerr@jeffco.us
Co-Sponsoring Counties/Commissioners:	Lesley Dahlkemper, Rachel Zenzinger.
Who is your subject matter expert?	Kym Sorrells, County Attorney, 303-271-8965, ksorrell@jeffco.us
Has this proposal been approved by your BoCC?	Yes.
Have you reviewed the CCI Instructional Memo?	Yes.
Describe the problem your proposal will solve.	Under the current Federal administration, several programs and county residents will see a reduction in federal funding and an increasing administrative burden on the county. Such program examples include SNAP, Medicaid, etc. A county's statutory authority may limit the ability to "backfill" payments if the Board of County Commissioners decides it wants to spend general fund on these programs.
Areas of Impact:	Functionality of county programs or services; Power/Authority/Mandate of county government.
What is the ultimate source of this problem?	Statutory limitation on county contributions to program administration.
What is your initial proposal to solve this problem?	Create a temporary waiver of a statutory limit on the county's ability to provide funding to the SNAP program.
Please provide sample language for this solution.	Temporary waiver of Section 26-1-122(d), C.R.S. Notwithstanding Section 26-1-122(d), C.R.S., the prohibition against a county expending county funds in an amount to exceed its twenty percent share of actual costs is hereby waived until December 31, 2027. This temporary waiver is enacted due to unforeseen circumstances related to decreased federal funding for the SNAP program, as compliance with this provision would create undue hardship during this period. This section is repealed effective January 1, 2028.
Are there any solutions that do not require state-level legislation? Has your county	None known.

explored these alternatives?	
Has CCI or any other organizations sought a solution to this problem before?	No.
What possible organization(s) would support your proposed solution?	Unknown.
What possible organization(s) would oppose your proposed solution?	Unknown.
Have you spoken with any legislators about your proposed solution? If so, what was their response?	No.
What are the financial implications of this problem to your county? Are there any financial implications to this solution either?	No state fiscal impacts.
What are the financial implications of this problem to any other impacted parties? What are the financial implications of this solution to any other impacted parties? <i>Please consider any relevant Colorado State Departments.</i>	If counties are allowed (but not mandated) to provide additional funding for the SNAP program, if they so choose, the additional funding provided by counties could help offset the loss of certain federal funding previously available for this program. This could provide a benefit to the state and/or recipients of SNAP funding because without additional voluntary contributions from the county, either the state would have to cover the gap in loss of federal funding or program benefits to recipients would be cut.
Staff Feedback	<u>Risk / Difficulty</u> : High - There are differing opinions on whether counties have or do not have the authority to spend above the 20% limit for SNAP administration in current statute. Today, there are counties that spend

	<p>above the 20% limit for this purpose. Additionally, there is concern that codifying in statute that counties may spend above the 20% limit for SNAP administration could unintentionally signal that counties across the board have funds available to spend more on SNAP administration than current levels, which is not the case.</p> <p><u>Time Commitment:</u> Low - The bill language is straightforward and there are legislators that would gladly sponsor this bill as they would view it as part of the solution to meeting the increased SNAP administration costs associated with the implementation of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act.</p>
--	--