



# Budget & Legislative Requests - 2022

## Budget Requests - Decision Items

January 12, 2022

### Priority 1: Wage Theft Enforcement Cash Fund (R-01)

*Amount: \$153,304 of Cash Funds & 1.0 FTE*

**Summary:** This request would increase spending authority for the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics to \$325,000. All funds over the alternative cap of \$400,000 would be transferred to the General Fund.

### Priority 2: Employment First Initiatives Continuation (R-02)

*Amount: \$93,187 of General Fund and \$334,277 of federal matching funds & 4.0 FTE*

**Summary:** With the expiration of the funding allocated to the department in 2019, CDLE is requesting an extension of that funding and associated positions. These positions are dedicated to implementing the Employment First initiatives, and increasing competitive integrated employment outcomes for the individuals served by DVR.

### Priority 3: Damage Prevention Fund (R-03)

*Amount: \$39,380 of Cash Funds*

**Summary:** This request will allow the Underground Damage Safety Prevention Commission to spend funds received through enforcement actions and allow for continuous spending authority. The UDSPC was created in 2018 to be the enforcement authority for SB18-167. The UDSPC has begun levying fines and penalties for violations, and would like to use those funds to enhance training opportunities for operators.

### Priority 4: Veterans to Career Refinance (R-04)

*Amount: \$500,000 reduction in Marijuana Tax Cash Fund, \$500,000 increase in Federal Funds*

**Summary:** This request will refinance the funds for the Veterans to Career Program from cash funds to Federal Funds.

### Priority 5: Workforce Case Management & Labor Exchange Modernization (BA-IT-CC-01)

*Amount: \$7 million of General Fund*

**Summary:** Utilize this funding to modernize Connecting Colorado, to support the integration of a state case management and labor exchange system, as a replacement for a legacy system over 20 years old that is built on aging technology and is not commonly supported in today's development environment.

### Priority 6: State of Colorado Skills-Based Hiring (BA-01)

*Amount: \$700,000 of General Fund & 4.0 FTE*

**Summary:** This money will go towards shifting the state as an employer to a skills based approach.

**Priority 7: Chief Operating Officer (BA-03)**

*Amount: \$238,212 of Cash Funds & 1.0 FTE*

**Summary:** Additional ESF spending authority for the EDO to bring on a COO. This person will oversee the Department's technology, operations and performance management reporting.

**Priority X: Office of New Americans Implementation (BA-02)**

*Amount: \$352,432 Federal Funds & 1.3 FTE*

**Summary:** Implementation of the ONA in addition to the proponents of the bill, other new duties were assigned by the legislature and include a study on unemployment benefit opportunities and oversight of the immigrant legal defense fund.

**Priority 8: Just Transition Office Spending Extension (S-01)**

*Amount: \$0*

**Summary:** This request will extend the amount of time to spend the Coal Transition Worker Assistance Program.

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**Contact Information**

**Patrick Teegarden**  
Director of Policy & Legislation  
*patrick.teegarden@state.co.us*  
303.908.0866

**Caitlin Adams**  
Senior Legislative & Policy Analyst  
*caitlin.e.adams@state.co.us*  
256.466.5935



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Labor and Employment

# Budget & Legislative Requests - 2022

## Legislative Requests

January 12, 2022

### Priority 1: Family and Medical Leave Insurance Funding (Pre-Pay)

**Summary:** Due to complications arising from litigation filed against the FAML I division, CDLE is seeking an alternative funding source to the previous attempts to pursue financing through 3rd party lending. This legislation would authorize a \$57 million transfer of general funds to the division as a prepayment of premiums for future FAML I coverage of state employees. These funds would be used to cover all startup costs.

### Priority 2: Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund

**Summary:** The Governor's budget includes a total of \$600,000,000 (\$500,000,000 of General Fund and \$100,000,000 of ARPA) to move into the UI Trust Fund. This will include suspending the solvency surcharge for 2023.

### Priority 3: Consolidation of Public Safety Cash Funds

**Summary:** In order to allow for better management of cash funds during economic downturns, CDLE proposes combining the cash funds for the following programs: Amusement park rides, explosives, conveyances, and boilers. These fund enforcement activities, and are 100% fee funded.

### Priority 4: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Financial Needs Analysis

**Summary:** To better align with federal law, and promote equitable access to Vocational Rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, CDLE requests additional flexibilities related to financial needs testing prior to providing certain services. Current state law requires goods and services are only provided to the extent the individual requires financial assistance, which requires DVR counselors to do an analysis to determine what this financial need is. This creates an inequitable system of VR services. Those with blind and low vision that live in Denver have greater access to free services than those with other disabilities, and who live in more rural areas. While federal law does not require any DVR clients to contribute to the cost of their services, state law will result in higher contributions being required.

### Priority 5: Family and Medical Leave Insurance (Employer Incentive)

**Summary:** In order to alleviate the burden on employers, the department will seek legislation that lowers the total percentage of wages from .9% to .81% for the first 6 months of 2023. The savings will be split 50/50 between the employer portion and the employee portion of premiums. Up to \$57 million of general funds will then be used to backfill the lost revenue.

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## Contact Information

**Patrick Teegarden**  
Director of Policy & Legislation  
[patrick.teegarden@state.co.us](mailto:patrick.teegarden@state.co.us)  
303.908.0866

**Caitlin Adams**  
Senior Legislative & Policy Analyst  
[caitlin.e.adams@state.co.us](mailto:caitlin.e.adams@state.co.us)  
256.466.5935