



Colorado Department of Human Services
people who help people



LEAP FACT SHEET

GENERAL LEAP PROFILE

- LEAP is a program of the Colorado Department of Human Services that provides cash assistance to help hard working families and individuals pay winter home heating costs or help with broken furnaces or wood stoves.
- Funding from the Federal government has increased for the 2008/2009 season, which has allowed LEAP to increase the amount of money it can give to families.
 - The minimum benefit has increased by 75 percent to approximately \$350 per household from \$200.
 - The maximum benefit has increased by approximately 25 percent to about \$900 from \$700.
 - The average benefit is anticipated to be \$440 for the 2008/2009 season.
- LEAP pays the highest benefits to those with the highest heating bills and lowest incomes by family size.
- Approximately 80 percent of LEAP benefits are paid directly to the applicants' heating fuel provider.
- Currently, the top 10 percent of counties requesting LEAP applications are: Denver, El Paso, Adams, Arapahoe, Pueblo, and Jefferson counties. Larimer, Mesa and Weld counties also had high application rates during the 2007/2008 LEAP season.
- The following utility companies cover these areas: XCEL, Black Hills Utilities, ATMOS, SourceGas and Colorado Springs Utilities.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be a Colorado resident and a U.S. citizen or legal alien.
- Applicant must provide a copy of valid identification and a completed affidavit to comply with Colorado Revised Statutes regarding documentation of lawful presence.
 - Currently, the following valid forms of identification are accepted:
 - ✓ Colorado Driver's License or Colorado Identification card; or
 - ✓ United States Military Identification Card or Military Dependent's Identification card; or
 - ✓ United States Coast Guard Merchant Mariner card; or
 - ✓ Native American Tribal document.
- Applicant must be responsible for paying heating costs, either directly to a utility company, or to a landlord as part of rent.

- In order to receive LEAP assistance, income cannot exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty index.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2008
1	\$ 1,604
2	\$ 2,159
3	\$ 2,714
4	\$ 3,269
5	\$ 3,824
6	\$ 4,379
7	\$ 4,934
8	\$ 5,489

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON OVER 8, \$555 CAN
BE ADDED TO THE GROSS MONTHLY INCOME REQUIREMENTS.

OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED TO LEAP ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

- The Crisis Intervention Program assists with the repair or replacement of the home's primary heating system such as a furnace or wood-burning stove.
- The Weatherization Program, through the Governor's Energy Offices' Energy Savings Partners, improves the energy efficiency in homes throughout Colorado, permanently reducing heating costs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- LEAP accepts applications from November 1 through April 30 of each year.
- Individuals interested in the program can apply several ways:
 - Call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to order a mailed application.
 - Applications are available at every county department of social/human services.
 - Most utility companies keep a supply of LEAP applications and instruction sheets.
 - Many community agencies, like Catholic Charities, stock LEAP applications.
 - Beginning November 1, LEAP applications can also be downloaded from the program's Web site at <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/leap/apply.htm>. Applicants may fax the completed application to their appropriate county office or they may mail it to the county at the address available on the website.