



## MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

### **LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**August 19, 2008**

The long, hot days of summer will soon be replaced with colder and shorter days of fall and winter. Unfortunately, this is a time when home heating costs go through the roof and tens of thousands of Colorado families need help keeping the heat and lights on. It is my goal to provide as much information regarding energy assistance as possible for the families of El Paso County.

To illustrate the enormity of the problem and need for affordable energy solutions, I will refer to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program Statistics:

In 2008, 112,068 Colorado families filed for assistance with their heating bills.

In 2008, 14,204 families from El Paso County filed for assistance with their heating bills.

Families that need additional assistance with their winter heating costs often rely on the federally funded Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), administered by the Colorado Department of Human Services. LEAP is not designed to pay the full amount of the heating bills; it is designed to assist families in paying a ***PORTION*** of their heating bills. The LEAP program closes in the summer, and applications are accepted from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. If you need assistance with your energy bills during the summer, contact the HEAT-HELP line at 1-866-432-8435.

In order to qualify for LEAP:

- You are a U.S. Citizen or legal resident of Colorado.
- You pay heating costs directly to an energy provider or pay the cost of the heat for your home with rent.
- Your gross monthly household income falls within the guidelines posted November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- Your maximum family household gross income falls within the guidelines (SEE [WWW.CDHS.STATE.CO.US/LEAP/](http://WWW.CDHS.STATE.CO.US/LEAP/) for guidelines).

Families in need of energy assistance can also contact Energy Outreach Colorado at 303.825.8750, or [WWW.ENERGYOUTREACH.ORG](http://WWW.ENERGYOUTREACH.ORG). Energy Outreach Colorado has been working with Colorado families for nineteen years through the Charitable Energy Network and Low Income Energy Assistance Programs. Energy Outreach Colorado is an organization established by the General Assembly in 1989, and designed raise funds for low-income families and individuals.

If you or a family member is in need of assistance in the upcoming year consider talking to LEAP or DHS now! You should find out what the qualifications are and be prepared to file your application by November 1<sup>st</sup> so your assistance will be available when you need it! Please call or email if you have any questions or comments! Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Respectfully,

***Marsha Looper***

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