



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

KEEPING THE HEAT ON...

As unemployment rates and energy costs continue to rise, many families throughout El Paso County and the State of Colorado must choose between paying their energy, medicine or grocery bills. It appears as if families with small children, senior citizens and special needs are hit the hardest during this time of the year. Help is available for those families who live below 185% of the national poverty level through the Low Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) funded by taxes and administered by the Colorado Dept. of Human Services (DHS).

In order to qualify for LEAP individuals and families must;

- Be a U.S. Citizens or legal residents of Colorado,
- Continue to pay heating costs to energy provider,
- And monthly income falls within the following guide lines.

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Max. Gross Monthly Income</u>
1	\$1,670
2	\$2,246
3	\$2,823
4	\$3,400
5	\$3,976

According to the CDHS website, WWW.CDHS.STATE.CO.US, the LEAP program eligibility period runs from **November 1st through April 30th**. Those families in need of energy assistance may contact the LEAP HELP line at 1-866-432-8435 or visit WWW.CDHS.STATE.CO.US for assistance and additional information.

If a family qualifies for basic LEAP and are in need of assistance with their homes primary heating source such as a furnace they may qualify for the Crisis Intervention Program(CIP) and get financial assistance with replacing their furnaces. County Leap offices are available for assistance with the CIP.

Energy Outreach Colorado(EOC), a private nonprofit organization offers emergency assistance to prevent utility service interruptions, assistance to restore utility service and grants for bulk fuel. EOC can be reached at 303-825-8750 or by email at info@energyoutreach.org. This year when the national unemployment rate is close to 10% and individuals and family members are losing their jobs, it is more important than ever to introduce the residents of HD19 to services that could possibly save their lives. These services are made available by hard working, tax paying citizens and are available now! Please call me, LEAP, CIP or EOC if we can be of any assistance in helping you keep the heat on this winter. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Colorado House of Representatives.

Marsha Looper

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