

Chapter 5

Government Programs and Financial Assistance

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SYNOPSIS

- 5-1. Old Age Pension
 - 5-2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - 5-3. Energy Assistance Programs
 - 5-4. Veterans' Benefits
 - 5-5. Telephone Assistance Program
 - 5-6. Resources
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5-1. Old Age Pension

The Colorado Old Age Pension (OAP) program provides a minimum level of income to needy Colorado residents age 60 or older. To qualify, an applicant's countable income must be less than the OAP standard of need, which is \$788 (\$1,576 for a married couple). An applicant's resources must be below \$2,000 for a single person, \$3,000 for a couple.

The benefit calculation and resource rules are similar to those used in the SSI program.

Applications may be filed at the County Department of Human Services (see "Resources" in section 5-6, below). Documents to bring include:

- ▶ Proof of age (birth certificate);
- ▶ Proof of citizenship or resident alien status (birth certificate or naturalization certificate);
- ▶ Proof of Colorado residency (photo ID, mail);

- ▶ Proof of income and assets;
- ▶ Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) award letters or copies of checks;
- ▶ Bank statements; and
- ▶ Copies of life insurance policies.

5-2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Seniors with limited income and resources may be eligible for the supplemental nutrition assistance program, or SNAP. In general, people age 60 or older, living alone, must have gross income of less than \$1,316 per month, and non-exempt resources of less than \$3,500 to qualify. The limits are higher for couples and larger households. SSI and OAP recipients are automatically eligible for at least a minimal SNAP award.

The value of the SNAP award depends on the household income.

Household Income Limits			
<i>Size</i>	<i>Gross Income per Month</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Gross Income per Month</i>
1	\$1,316	6	\$3,656
2	\$1,784	7	\$4,124
3	\$2,252	8	\$4,592
4	\$2,720	8+	Add for each: \$468
5	\$3,188		

Applications may be filed at the local county Department of Human Services offices. See “Resources” in section 5-6, below.

Colorado also recognizes categorical eligibility for food stamps where any member of the household also is eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), County Diversion Assistance, or State Diversion Assistance, and where all members of the household are eligible for SSI.

5-3. Energy Assistance Programs

The Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) offers free energy efficiency upgrades and safety inspections for income-eligible households. The Energy Saving Partners (ESP) programs aim to lower energy bills, eliminate unsafe conditions, and improve the comfort of their recipients.

As energy costs continue to rise, investing in residential energy efficiency improvements becomes more attractive and more economically sensible. Unfortunately, limited discretionary income prevents many households from responding to price signals and incen-

tives. At the same time, the burden of energy costs upon household income is the greatest for these consumers.

An average household consumes about 900 therms of gas and about 8,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year. Various factors affect the amount of energy that a household consumes, including the thermal efficiency of the home, the operating efficiency of the heating system, the number of occupants, the age of appliances, and consumption behaviors of the occupants. Recognizing the variability in needs, the GEO has designed a variety of energy efficiency services that are provided free of charge to eligible recipients.

There are many benefits to the home efficiency services provided by the GEO. Its programs are designed to assist income-qualified households, so reducing the recipient's energy costs is a top priority. In addition to reducing utility costs, its services offer a wide range of non-energy-related benefits. Because the GEO's services often include health and safety inspections, recipients can avoid hazardous conditions that could lead to fires or unsafe buildup of carbon monoxide. Recipients of these services will also benefit from a more comfortable living space as a result of increased climate control.

If you have received assistance from any of the following programs in the past 12 months, you are automatically eligible for the GEO's services: the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP; described below), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), OAP, or Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND). You also may qualify if you are on Medicaid. Apply for the GEO's services by calling (866) 432-8435 or contacting your local county Department of Human Services. (See "Resources," section 5-6.)

An important energy assistance program is LEAP, which helps participants pay for winter home heating costs. To be eligible, your family household income needs to fall within 165 percent of the federal poverty level guidelines (see chart below), you must pay home heating costs to an energy provider or as part of your rent, and you must be a permanent and legal resident of the United States and Colorado. Applications will be accepted from November 1 through April 30.

LEAP Eligibility	
<i>People in Household</i>	<i>Gross Monthly Income Limits</i>
1	\$1,670
2	\$2,264
3	\$2,858
4	\$3,452
5	\$4,046
6	\$4,640
7	\$5,234
8	\$5,828
8+	Add for each: \$594

You can apply for LEAP at your local county Department of Human Services or by calling (866) HEAT-HELP (866-432-8435). You also can download a LEAP application and apply online at www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/leap. Click on "How Do I Apply." The application is available in English and Spanish.

5-4. Veterans' Benefits

Two programs provide benefits for disabled veterans.

Veterans with service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a compensation benefit regardless of their income or resources. The amount of the benefit depends on the level of disability. Veterans who are rated as being more than 30 percent disabled also are entitled to a benefit for their dependents.

Veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities also may be entitled to a pension benefit, but only if they are permanently and totally disabled and have limited income and assets.

When a veteran dies, the surviving spouse and minor children may be eligible for pension benefits if the survivors' incomes are below a certain level. If the death was due to a service-connected disability, the surviving spouse is eligible for benefits that are not income based.

Medical care is provided at Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals and clinics for all service-related medical conditions.

Hospital care at VA hospitals and nursing home care at VA nursing homes is available to veterans who have service-connected disabilities, who receive a VA pension, or who fall into other special categories, such as former prisoners of war. Hospital care may be provided, as space is available, to other veterans, if the veteran's income is below the eligibility limit.

The Veterans Administration may contribute to the cost of burial, headstone or marker, and a burial flag. The veteran may be eligible to be buried in a national cemetery.

To apply for VA benefits, write, call, or visit your local VA regional office. In Denver, it is at 155 Van Gordon St., Lakewood, CO 80228, online at www.va.gov, telephone: (800) 827-1000. Or contact the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs, 1355 S. Colorado Blvd., #113, Denver, CO 80222, telephone: (303) 284-6077, online: www.colorado.gov/vets.

Applicants for VA benefits are advised to seek the assistance of a veterans' advocate such as the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs.

See Chapter 6, "Veterans' Benefits," for more information.

5-5. Telephone Assistance Program

The Colorado Low Income Telephone Assistance Program (LITAP), also called "Lifeline," provides for a discount on basic phone services for individuals receiving benefits from Old Age Pension, Aid to the Blind, SSI, and Aid to the Needy/Disabled. All telecommuni-

cations companies that operate in the state are required to offer LITAP. Discounts vary. There also may be a discount for installation of new phone service. For information on how to apply, call (800) 782-0721 or (303) 866-5700 for the Colorado Department of Human Services.

5-6. Resources

County Departments of Social Services

For updates, go to www.colorado.gov/cdhs and click on "Contact Your County."

Adams County 11860 Pecos St. Westminster, CO 80234 (720) 523-2000 Alamosa County 8900 C Independence Way Alamosa, CO 81101 (719) 589-2581 Arapahoe County 14980 E. Alameda Dr. Aurora, CO 80012 (303) 636-1130 Archuleta County 551 Hot Springs Blvd. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 (970) 264-2182 Baca County 772 Colorado St., Ste. 1 Springfield, CO 81073 (719) 523-4131 Bent County 215 2nd St. Las Animas, CO 81054 (719) 456-2620	Boulder County 3400 N. Broadway Boulder, CO 80304 515 Coffman St. Longmont, CO 80501 (303) 441-1000 Broomfield County 100 Spader Way Broomfield, CO 80020 (720) 887-2200 Chaffee County 448 E. 1st St., Ste. 166 Salida, CO 81201 (719) 530-2500 Cheyenne County 560 W. 6th St. North Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810 (719) 767-5629 Clear Creek County 405 Argentine St. Georgetown, CO 80444 (303) 679-2365 Conejos County 12989 County Rd. G. 6 Conejos, CO 81129 (719) 376-5455	Costilla County 233 Main St., Ste. A San Luis, CO 81152 (719) 672-4131 Crowley County 631 Main St., Ste. 100 Ordway, CO 81063 (719) 267-3546 Custer County 205 S. 6th St. Westcliffe, CO 81252 (719) 783-2371 Delta County 560 Dodge St. Delta, CO 81416 (970) 874-2030 Denver County 1200 Federal Blvd. Denver, CO 80204 3815 Steele St. Denver, CO 80205 4685 Peoria St. Denver, CO 80239 (720) 944-4347 Dolores County 409 N. Main St. Dove Creek, CO 81324 (970) 677-2250
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Douglas County 4400 Castleton Ct. Castle Rock, CO 80109 (303) 688-4825 Eagle County 551 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631 (970) 328-8840 Elbert County 75 Ute Ave. Kiowa, CO 80117 (303) 621-3149 El Paso County 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd. Colorado Springs, CO 80907 (719) 636-0000 Fremont County 172 Justice Center Rd. Canon City, CO 81212 (719) 275-2318 Garfield County 195 W. 14th St. Rifle, CO 81650 (970) 625-5282 Gilpin County 2960 Dory Hill Rd., Ste. 100 Black Hawk, CO 80422 (303) 582-5444 Grand County 620 Hemlock St. Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451 (970) 725-3331	Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties 225 N. Pine St. Gunnison, CO 81230 (970) 641-3244 Huerfano County 121 W. 6th St. Walsenburg, CO 81089 (719) 738-2810 Jackson County 350 McKinley St. Walden, CO 80480 (970) 723-4750 Jefferson County 900 Jefferson County Pkwy. Golden, CO 80401 (303) 271-1388 Kiowa County 1307 Maine St. Eads, CO 81036 (719) 438-5541 Kit Carson County 252 S. 14th St. Burlington, CO 80807 (719) 346-8732 Lake County 112 W. 5th St. Leadville, CO 80461 (719) 486-2088 La Plata County 10 Burnett Ct., 1st Fl. Durango, CO 81301 (970) 382-6150 Larimer County 1501 Blue Spruce Dr. Fort Collins, CO 80524 (970) 498-6300	Las Animas County 204 S. Chestnut St. Trinidad, CO 81082 (719) 846-2276 Lincoln County 103 3rd Ave. Hugo, CO 80821 (719) 743-2404 Logan County 508 S. 10th Ave., Ste. 2 Sterling, CO 80751 (970) 522-2194 Mesa County 510 29-1/2 Rd. Grand Junction, CO 81502 (970) 241-8480 Mineral County 1015 6th St. Del Norte, CO 81132 (719) 657-3381 Moffat County 595 Breeze St. Craig, CO 81625 (970) 824-8282 Montezuma County 109 W. Main, Rm. 203 Cortez, CO 81321 (970) 564-4100 Montrose County 1845 S. Townsend Montrose, CO 81401 (970) 252-5000 Morgan County 800 E. Beaver Ave. Fort Morgan, CO 80701 (970) 542-3530
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Otero County 13 W. 3rd St. La Junta, CO 81050 (719) 383-3100 Ouray County 177 Sherman St., Unit 107 Ridgway, CO 81432 (970) 626-2299 Park County 59865 Hwy. 285, 2nd Fl. Bailey, CO 80421 (303) 816-5939 825 Clark St. Fairplay, CO 80440 (719) 836-4139 Phillips County 127 E. Denver St., Ste. A Holyoke, CO 80734 (970) 854-2280 Pitkin County 0405 Castle Creek Rd., Ste. 8 Aspen, CO 81611 (970) 920-5235 Prowers County 1001 S. Main St. Lamar, CO 81052 (719) 336-7486	Pueblo County 201 W. 8th St. Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 583-6160 Rio Blanco County 345 Market St. Meeker, CO 81641 (970) 878-9640 101 E. Main St. Rangely, CO 81648 (970) 878-9531 Rio Grande County 1015 6th St. Del Norte, CO 81132 (719) 657-3381 Routt County 135 6th St. Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 (970) 870-5533 Saguache County 605 Christy Ave. Saguache, CO 81149 (719) 655-2537 San Juan County 1557 Greene St. Silverton, CO 81433 (970) 382-6150	San Miguel County 333 W. Colorado Ave., 3rd Fl. Telluride, CO 81435 (970) 728-4411 Sedgwick County 118 W. 3rd St. Julesburg, CO 80737 (970) 474-3397 Summit County 360 Peak One Dr., Ste. 230 Frisco, CO 80443 (970) 668-9160 Teller County 800 Research Dr., Ste. 100 Woodland Park, CO 80863 (719) 686-5518 Washington County 126 W. 5th Akron, CO 80720 (970) 345-2238 Weld County 315 N. 11th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631 (970) 352-1551 Yuma County 340 S. Birch St. Wray, CO 80758 (970) 332-4877
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Veterans Resources

For more information about veterans' benefits, see Chapter 6, "Veterans' Benefits."

Federal Veterans Administration

General Information Number: (800) 827-1000 or (844) 698-2311

TDD: Dial 711

www.va.gov

Veterans Affairs Regional Office

155 Van Gordon

Lakewood, CO 80228

(800) 827-1000

www.benefits.va.gov/denver

State of Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs

This is the primary office for the State of Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs. It is separate from the United States Department, but provides advocacy and appeals assistance.

1355 S. Colorado Blvd.

Bldg. C, Ste. 113

Denver, CO 80222

(303) 284-6077

www.colorado.gov/pacific/vets

In General

Denver Veterans Center (for psychological counseling)

7465 E. 1st Ave., Ste. B

Denver, CO 80230

(303) 326-0645

Crisis line: (800) 273-8255 (press 1)

www.vetcenter.va.gov

Disabled American Veterans State Office

1485 Holland St.

Lakewood, CO 80215

(303) 922-3631

www.davmembersportal.org/co/default.aspx

Colorado Legal Services Offices

The below offices help veterans with problems when dealing with government benefits and will intercede on their behalf.

www.coloradolegalservices.org

Alamosa (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties)

Address: 603 Main St., Alamosa

Phone: (719) 589-4993

Boulder (Boulder County)

Address: 315 W. South Boulder Rd., Ste. 205, Louisville

Phone: (303) 449-7575

Colorado Springs (El Paso, Lincoln, and Teller counties; Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Park counties shared with other offices)

Address: 617 S. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs

Phone: (719) 471-0380

Craig (Eagle, Lake, Grand, Jackson, Moffatt, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties)

Address: 50 College Dr., #111, Craig

Phone: (800) 521-6968 (call before visiting)

Denver (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, and Jefferson counties, as well as seniors in Clear Creek and Gilpin counties)

Address: 1905 Sherman St., Ste. 400, Denver

Phone: (303) 837-1313

Durango (Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel counties as well as Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute reservations)

Address: 835 E. 2nd Ave., #300, Durango

Phone: (888) 298-8483

Fort Collins (Larimer, Logan, Phillips, and Sedgwick counties)

Address: 211 W. Magnolia St., Fort Collins

Phone: (970) 493-2891

Frisco (Pitkin and Summit counties; Clear Creek and Gilpin seniors, call Denver office)

Address: 602 Galena St., Frisco

Phone: (800) 521-6968 (call before visiting)

Grand Junction (Delta, Garfield, Mesa, and Montrose counties)

Address: 200 N. 6th St., Ste. 203, Grand Junction

Phone: (970) 243-7940

Greeley (Morgan, Washington, Weld, and Yuma counties)

Address: 912 8th Ave., Greeley

Phone: (970) 353-7554

La Junta (Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Las Animas, Otero, and Prowers counties)

Address: 10 W. 3rd St., La Junta

Phone: (888) 805-5152

Migrant Farmworker Division (all counties)

Address: 1905 Sherman St., Ste. 400, Denver

Phone: (800) 864-4330

Pueblo (Pueblo county; Custer and Fremont counties shared with other offices)

Address: 1000 W. 6th St., Pueblo

Phone: (719) 545-6708

Salida (Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Park counties shared)

Address: 1604 H St., Ste. 201, Salida

Phone: (719) 539-4251

For Issues Regarding Medicaid

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

State Social Services Building

1570 Grant St.

Denver, CO 80203-1818

(303) 866-2993

(800) 221-3943 (toll-free)

711 (TDD)

24-hour Nurse Helpline for People on Medicaid: (800) 283-3221

<https://colorado.gov/hcpf>

For Issues Regarding Public Assistance

Department of Human Services

www.colorado.gov/cdhs

For county Departments of Human Services, look in the blue pages of your phone book under “County” or “City Government,” or go to www.colorado.gov/cdhs and click on “Contact Your County.”

* Sean Mandel of the State of Colorado Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) provided the overview of the GEO’s programs for income-eligible energy assistance in section 5-3.