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## **Weatherization services available to low-income households**

*Arapahoe County program lowers heating bills with energy-efficiency measures*

**Aurora, Colo.** – As winter storms arrive early to the Front Range, many already-struggling families will face even higher heating costs this season. Many households that have historically relied on Colorado's LEAP program for energy assistance will not be eligible this year, due to a decrease in federal funding and stricter income guidelines. However, another County program can help low-income households reduce their energy use and costs – not just for a season, but for the long-term.

The Arapahoe County Weatherization Division, in partnership with the Governor's Energy Office, can perform a free home energy audit and provide energy conservation services for low-income households in both Arapahoe and Adams Counties. The program can serve single-family homes, mobile homes and multi-family units up to a four-plex for residences that are rented or owned.

Weatherization services by a qualified crew may include sealing major air leaks; adding insulation to attics; walls and crawl spaces; performing health and safety tests on furnaces and water heaters; making necessary repairs to furnaces and water heaters; and installing high-efficiency compact fluorescent light bulbs, all at no cost.

"The best way to lower your energy bills is to make lasting efficiency improvements to your home" said Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig. "We know that many households cannot afford to invest in energy-efficient appliances, insulation or other measures, and we're pleased to offer the free federal weatherization program to eligible citizens."

More families will be eligible for weatherization this year than for LEAP. Weatherization services are available year-round to households earning 200 percent of federal poverty guideline or less, or \$3,725 per month for a family of four. Meanwhile, LEAP is available between November 1 and April 30 and, due to a decrease in federal funding, the income limit has dropped from 185 to 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, or \$2,794 per month for a family of four.

Funding for weatherization services is provided by the Colorado [Governor's Energy Office](http://www.governor.energyoffice.com) and the U.S. Department of Energy Denver Regional Office. To learn more and apply for weatherization services in Arapahoe or Adams County, please contact the Weatherization Division at 303-636-1982 or visit [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us) and click on "Services," then "Weatherization." To apply for LEAP, please call 1-866-432-8495 or visit [www.heathelp.org](http://www.heathelp.org).

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