

STA-WELL News – Fall 2002

Utility Assistance Available Starting November 1

Seniors and other low-income persons are eligible for assistance with heating costs through the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) starting November 1. Applications are accepted through April 30, 2003 at the local county department of social services.

To qualify for LEAP, the individual's income must be less than \$1371 per month (\$1841 for a couple). There are no resource requirements.

Although LEAP does not pay the total heating costs, annual payments for LEAP usually range between \$200 and \$700 depending on family size, income, and heating costs. The individual should continue to make payments until the grant is awarded. Most of the time, the LEAP payment will be made directly to the supplier of gas. A credit will appear on the heating bill when the LEAP payment is credited.

Individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income, Old Age Pension, Aid to the Needy Disabled, Aid to the Blind, Qualified Medicare Benefit, and Special Low Income Medicare Benefit or Medicare Qualifying Individual 1 will receive a "short form" in the mail. The "short form" requires the individual to affirm that the current information is still accurate. Other persons will be required to file the "long form." Individuals completing the long form will have to provide proof of income and heating costs.

If individuals live in subsidized housing and are deemed vulnerable for heating costs, they may be eligible for a LEAP payment. Not all individuals living in low-income housing are eligible for a LEAP payment.

If individuals receive a shutoff notice or have the heating service disconnected, the county department of social services may be able to intervene with the utility company. Generally, if the utility company is aware that an application for LEAP is being processed, the service will not be disconnected.

Individuals facing an imminent shut-off, may want to use the "Rule 13". According to Rule 13, the utility must give the customer ten days notice of the intent to shut-off the utilities. Utilities may not be shut-off for sixty days if the customer has medical proof that a shut-off would be harmful. The medical certification may be used only once a year. The utility company must accept payments from the customer to avoid a utility shut-off.

For more information or forms contact the county department of social services or call 303-333-3482.

Medicaid Transportation Changes. Effective October 1, Medicaid recipients in Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Larimer, Boulder, Jefferson, and Broomfield need to call 1-800-284-5150 to schedule an appointment, at least 48 hours in advance for a ride to the doctor or other approved Medicaid trips.

Changes in Home Care Allowance Take Effect

Effective July 1, 2002, the Home Care Allowance program for new applicants was closed. Current recipients of Home Care Allowance will continue to receive benefits as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

Home Care Allowance is a program whereby the individual receives a monthly check to purchase home care services from family members or other agencies.

Senior Awareness and Recognition Evening Jan 14

The annual fundraiser for Senior Answers and Services is scheduled for January 14, 2003 to honor Rep Frana Mace for her work with seniors. Rep Mace carried four bills in the state legislature to help seniors during the past year. Georgia Lesh-Laurie, Chancellor, University of Colorado at Denver will speak on *Baby Boomers are Aging in the 21st Century*. Proceeds enable Senior Answers to provide free services for seniors and families. Tickets are \$65. Call 303-333-3482 for details.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Get Help . . . With Support Groups

According to the 2000 Census, more grandparents than ever are raising grandchildren. The reasons for this increase are varied. Grandparents face a multitude of problems such as lack of financial help, managing difficult behaviors, and participating in activities that are important to young people.

Catholic Charities Kinship Care Program offers support groups and case management services to grandparents (or others) raising grandchildren. Kinship Care is a network of grandparents and others who can help and support each other.

Three monthly support groups meet in the Denver area offering information in financial assistance, housing, education, legal guardianship/custody, safety, emergency assistance, and other supportive services.

Monthly Support Group Schedule

Macedonia Baptist Church, 3240 Adams, Denver

1st Thursday 1-3 pm

Catholic Charities, 2525 W Alameda, Denver

3rd Wednesday 6-8 pm

Denver Indian Family Resource Center, Denver

(call 303-742-0823 x 647 for date and time)

For more information, call Jennifer Koch at 303-742-0823x647.

Total Longterm Care

Options Is Now the Single Entry Point for Denver, Arapahoe, Douglas and Elbert Counties

In October, Total Longterm Care was designated, by the State as the Single Entry Point, replacing Home Care Management, for individuals who need long term care services.

Individuals who are on Home and Community Based Services or who need other home care services, as well as nursing home services, should call 720-974-2397 for help.

HOW TO APPLY FOR HOME CARE, ASSISTED LIVING OR NURSING HOME CARE THROUGH TOTAL LONGTERM CARE OPTIONS

1. Contact the Single Entry Point (SEP) agency to initiate an intake referral. They will send the physician section of the ULTC-100 to your physician.
2. Contact your physician and ask that the form be completed promptly (the SEP will process your application when this form is returned from the physician)
3. The SEP will notify the county department of human services (DHS) that you have made a request or referral for services. The DHS will send you a financial application. If you are not 65 or older or are not receiving Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability, the county will send you a disability application. Complete the application(s), as they will be used to determine your financial, resource, and disability eligibility for Medicaid programs. Return the completed application(s) to the DHS. The completed disability application will be sent to Disability Determination Services (DDS) for assessment and approval.
4. After the SEP receives the physician statement and verification from the DHS that you have submitted the financial and disability application (if needed), a home visit will be scheduled to do an assessment.
5. Based on the home assessment, the SEP will submit the assessment to the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care (CFMC) for approval.
6. If the assessment is approved by CFMC for care needs, the DHS financial needs, and DDS, if necessary, for disability needs, the SEP will develop a care plan for you to receive care in the home, an assisted living facility or nursing home.
7. Individuals are reassessed at least annually or more often if the need arises. In-person visits are made during the year to determine if the care plan is appropriate.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT IN NOVEMBER

Visiting Nurse Association will be giving flu shots at King Soopers and Safeway stores. Call 303-333-3482 for a location near you. If you are not on an HMO, bring your Medicare card, and VNA will bill Medicare. Persons on Rocky Mountain HMO and Secure Horizons should bring their card for shots from VNA.

Kaiser patients can get flu shots free at Kaiser offices. For a list of locations and times, call 303-344-7600.

Old Age Pensioners May Be Eligible for Dental Services

Individuals who are receiving Old Age Pension may be eligible for dental services, if they have not used the Old Age Pension Dental Program previously. Individuals are eligible to receive help with fillings, extractions, dentures, partials, and cleanings. The cost to the individual is 20% of the approved charge. The individual can use any licensed dentist in the State of Colorado. To apply, send a copy of your current Medicaid card and your Social Security card, along with the name, address, and phone number of the dentist, as well as your name, address, and phone number to SAS, 3006 East Colfax, Denver 80206 or call 303-333-3482

Referrals can be made to the Seniors Clinic at the UCHSC School of Dentistry, if you are not eligible.

Annual Holiday Basket Application Form

Volunteers from Senior Answers and Services will be delivering 200 holiday baskets to low income, needy seniors on December 21, 2002 from 9 am to noon. Food for preparing a holiday meal will be delivered to individuals who are living alone, who do not have any relatives or friends with whom they will be spending the holidays, and who are low income. If you meet these criteria, please return the enclosed questionnaire.

1. Do you live
 - alone
 - with spouse
 - with family
 - with friends
2. Who lives in your house/apartment
 - self
 - self and spouse
 - self and children
 - self and grandchildren
 - self, children, and grandchildren
 - self and friend(s)
3. Do you live in
 - an apartment
 - private home
 - boarding home or an assisted living facility
 - townhouse/condo
 - trailer
4. Do you have children (or other family) living in the Denver area
 - Yes
 - No
5. Will your children (or other family) visit over the holidays
 - Yes
 - No
6. What is the total monthly income for all persons in the household
 - less than \$582
 - between \$582/mo and \$759/mo
 - between \$760/mo and \$999/mo
 - between \$1000/mo and \$1325/mo
 - more than \$1325/mo
5. Have you traditionally celebrated December 25 with a special holiday meal
 - Yes
 - Not recently
 - No, just another day
6. Will you be having a holiday dinner? *(Check all that apply)*
 - alone
 - with spouse
 - with family
 - with friends
 - with residents who live in your building
7. Will you receive visitors during the holidays? *(Check all that apply)*
 - No, I'll be alone
 - Yes, I will be with my spouse
 - Yes, I will be with family
 - Yes, I will be with friends
 - Yes, I will be with residents who live in my building
8. Do you usually
 - cook dinner for yourself
 - eat in the dining room in your building
 - have your spouse or family cook dinner for you
 - go out to eat dinner
9. Can you cook a holiday dinner
 - Yes
 - No
10. Do you usually receive
 - A Basket Joy from Volunteers of America
 - Yes
 - No
 - A prepared holiday meal from family or friends
 - Yes
 - No
 - A holiday meal or basket from another agency
 - Yes
 - No
11. Did you apply for a LEAP payment to help pay for utilities
 - Yes
 - No
12. On your phone, do you have
 - voice mail
 - call waiting
 - call forwarding
 - caller ID
13. Of the list below, please check which of the following **five** problems are the most difficult for you?
 - Increasing rent
 - Increasing taxes
 - Food costs
 - Low cost housing
 - Fear of assault
 - Safety on the streets
 - Racisim
 - Theft from seniors
 - Fraud
 - More food stamps
 - Paying bills
 - High cost of gas and electricity
 - Graffiti and trash
 - Eyeglasses/Vision
 - Hearing Aids
 - Dental services
 - Meals on wheels
 - Cooking
 - Chore Services
 - Bathing assistance
 - Home Repairs
 - Snow removal
 - Yard work
 - Telemarketing
 - Prescription drugs
 - Cost of health care
 - Cost of health Insurance
 - The holidays
 - Loss of friends/family
 - Fear of terrorism/war
 - More transportation
 - More RTD stops
 - More access-a-Ride transportation

- Better response from police
- Other

- More entertainment for seniors

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP

PHONE _____ E-MAIL

*Please Return this form by **December 7, 2002** to:*
SENIOR ANSWERS AND SERVICES
3006 EAST COLFAX, DENVER CO 80206
303-333-3482 or fax to 303-333-9112

News To Use ...

PROPERTY TAX/RENT/HEAT REBATE ... On January 1, 2002, seniors age 65 and over and disabled persons are eligible for a Colorado property tax/rent/heat rebate if their income is less than \$11,000 for individuals or \$14,700 for couples. The amount of the rebate depends upon the amount of heat and rent/property taxes that were paid in 2001. To receive this rebate, complete the 104 PTC and return to the Colorado Department of Revenue by December 31, 2003. For individuals who have not filed for the 2000 refund, they can do so before December 31, 2002. For assistance or forms, call 303-333-3482.

CITY OF DENVER TAX/RENT REABATES... Residents of the City and County of Denver are eligible for a property tax/rent rebate if their income is less than \$11,800 as an individual (\$16,100 for a couple) and one spouse is at least 65 years of age or disabled by December 31, 2001. Individuals must have lived in Denver for the entire year. As a home owner the taxes must be paid. If you are a renter, the form must be signed by the landlord or you must furnish the rent receipts. If you did not receive a form in the mail, call 303-333-3482

SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDEBOOK. Free copies of the 2002-03 edition of the Senior Resource Guidebook are available at local libraries or at the Senior Answers and Service office. The Guidebook contains information on health insurance including Medicare, Medicaid, and long-term care insurance; help in the home; housing alternatives; and advance directives. A special feature of the Guidebook is a document locator that can be used to help seniors let loved ones and significant others know the location of important documents such as birth certificates, the will, insurance policies, and investments. To have a copy mailed, send \$5 to cover postage and handling to Senior Answers and Services, 3006 East Colfax, Denver 80206.

IN-HOME RESPITE CARE. In Home and Family Services will provide up to \$1000 in in-home respite care for caregivers of older persons in Adams, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Broomfield, and Denver. Services include personal care, homemaker, and assessment. Call Pam Dombrowski-Wilson at 303-526-2318 to receive services. Senior Hub will provide

similar services in the City of Aurora and the Tri-Valley areas of Adams and Arapahoe counties. Call Arlene Peterson at 303-426-4408.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DELIVER HOLIDAY BASKETS ON DECEMBER 21 from 9 am to noon to low income seniors who will be home alone over the holidays. Routes include 4-5 homes. Help is needed on December 19 and 20 to sort and pack food. Food donations can also be left at 3006 East Colfax, Denver. Call 303-333-3482 to volunteer.