



April 10, 2020 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Tom Fasano, Director of Marketing, United Way of Weld County

970.304.6176 | tom@unitedway-weld.org

Colorado DHS extends LEAP heating assistance for home heating costs due to COVID-19 pandemic

United Way of Weld County encourages people to look into whether or not they qualify for the Colorado Department of Human Service's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).

Due to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19), the application deadline for the LEAP has been extended through Aug. 31, 2020, or when funds are exhausted. The LEAP season was supposed to end on April 30.

"We recognize there is a real need for the families and individuals in our state at this time," said LEAP manager Theresa Kullen. "We are extending the deadline to submit applications so we can help as many people as possible. Applications will be processed as long as we have funding available."

Applications can be accessed through LEAP's website at www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap, which also links to the state's [Colorado PEAK](#) system for online applications, or call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435). To date, LEAP has helped more than 66,500 households with an average benefit of \$372.

United Way of Weld County is partnering with Weld County to promote LEAP, a federally funded program that helps families, individuals, seniors and those with disabilities pay a portion of their winter home heating costs.

"It's been our privilege to be able to work with the Department of Human Services at Weld County and Colorado in getting the word out on the importance of LEAP," said Tom Fasano, marketing and communications director for United Way of Weld County. "We know the financial assistance provided by LEAP helps many struggling families, and we're pleased to see the program has been extended during these challenging times."

LEAP is not intended to cover all costs of home heating for qualifying participants, but rather to help alleviate some of the energy burden associated with the colder winter months. LEAP provides assistance during the winter with heating costs, equipment repair and/or replacement of inoperable heating tools.

The program normally runs from Nov. 1 through April 30, but the impact from COVID-19 has created unusual circumstances, Kullen indicated. As Coloradans recover from the economic and

health challenges being faced, LEAP does not want to people to choose between “heat or eat” when community resources are available.

#

About United Way of Weld County

The mission of the United Way of Weld County (UWWC) is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community. UWWC assists residents in the areas of Early Childhood Development, Youth Success, Household Stability, Older Adults/Healthy Aging and Access to Services. Through our community’s willingness to give, advocate and volunteer, UWWC is able to have a positive impact on tens of thousands of lives every year. Thanks to the generosity of the 39 UWWC Cornerstone Partners, they donate all or a portion of their corporate donation to help cover 100 percent of administrative and fundraising costs for the resources under UWWC’s management. For more information, visit the United Way of Weld County website at www.unitedway-weld.org.