

# 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
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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 \$952 (\$1,904 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 \$1,473 per month, and non-exempt resources of less than \$4,250 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. Also, beginning in March 2020, SNAP recipients received additional emergency allotments authorized by Congress as a temporary strategy to help low-income individuals and families deal with the financial hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic. This emergency allotment ended after the February 2023 SNAP issuance, when all SNAP households' benefits returned to normal SNAP benefit amounts.

Household Income Limits			
Size	Gross Income per Month	Size	Gross Income per Month
1	\$1,473	6	\$4,029
2	\$1,984	7	\$4,541
3	\$2,495	8	\$5,052
4	\$3,007	8+	Add for each: \$512
5	\$3,518		

USDA, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Income Eligibility Standards, <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/FY23-Income-Eligibility-Standards.pdf>. Note that income requirements vary by county in Colorado.

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 Colorado Energy Office (CEO), at <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov>, 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 may prevent many households from responding to price signals and incentives. 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 CEO 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 CEO. 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 CEO’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 CEO’s services: the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP; described below), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), OAP, or Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND). You also may qualify if you are on Medicaid. Apply for the CEO’s services by calling (303) 866-2100 or the HEAT HELP line at (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 60 percent of the state median income level (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.

<b>LEAP Eligibility</b>	
<i>People in Household</i>	<i>Gross Monthly Income Limits</i>
1	\$2,880
2	\$3,766
3	\$4,652
4	\$5,539
5	\$6,425
6	\$7,311
7	\$7,477
8	\$7,644
8+	Add for each: \$166

You can apply for LEAP at your local county Department of Human Services, by downloading a LEAP application and applying online at <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/leap>, or by calling (866) HEAT-HELP ((866) 432-8435). The application is available in English and Spanish. Energy.gov, Biden-Harris Administration Announces State and Tribe Allocations for Home Energy Rebate Program, [www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-state-and-tribe-allocations-home-energy-rebate](http://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-state-and-tribe-allocations-home-energy-rebate).

## **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, a 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](http://www.va.gov), telephone: (800) 827-1000. Or contact the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs, Administrative Office-Lakewood, 155 Van Gordon, Ste. 201, Lakewood, CO 80228, telephone: (303) 914-5832; or Administrative Office-Grand Junction, 482 28 Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81501, telephone: (970) 257-3760; online: [cdvainfo@dmva.state.co.us](mailto:cdvainfo@dmva.state.co.us).

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), now called "Lifeline" or Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), provides free or discounted cell phone services for individuals either receiving benefits from Old Age Pension, Aid to the Blind, SSI, Aid to the Needy/Disabled, TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), tribal programs, and Veterans or Survivors Pensions, or have an income at or below 135 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines. This is \$18,347 for a single household and \$24,719 for a household of two. (For each additional person in household add \$6,372 in income.) See [www.lifewireless.com/plans/colorado](http://www.lifewireless.com/plans/colorado).

All telecommunications 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, contact Life Wireless at (888) 543-3620 or call the telecommunications provider directly as the Colorado Department of Human Services no longer runs this program. However, contact CDHS at (303) 866-5700 with any concerns and complaints.

## 5-6. Resources

### County Departments of Social Services

For updates, go to <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/our-partners/counties/contact-your-county-human-services-department> and click on the clickable map.

<p><b>Adams County</b> 11860 Pecos St. Westminster, CO 80234 (720) 523-2000</p> <p><b>Alamosa County</b> 8900 C Independence Way Alamosa, CO 81101 (719) 589-2581</p> <p><b>Arapahoe County</b> 14980 E. Alameda Dr. Aurora, CO 80012 (303) 636-1130</p> <p><b>Archuleta County</b> 551 Hot Springs Blvd. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 (970) 264- 2182</p> <p><b>Baca County</b> 772 Colorado St., Ste. 1 Springfield, CO 81073 (719) 523-4131</p> <p><b>Bent County</b> 138 6th St. Las Animas, CO 81054 (719) 456-2620</p>	<p><b>Boulder County</b> 3400 N. Broadway Boulder, CO 80304</p> <p>515 Coffman St. Longmont, CO 80501 (303) 441-1000</p> <p><b>Broomfield County</b> 100 Spader Way Broomfield, CO 80020 (720) 887-2200</p> <p><b>Chaffee County</b> 448 E. 1st St., Ste. 166 Salida, CO 81201 (719) 530-2500</p> <p><b>Cheyenne County</b> 560 W. 6th St. North Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810 (719) 767-5629</p> <p><b>Clear Creek County</b> 405 Argentine St. Georgetown, CO 80444 (303) 679-2365</p> <p><b>Conejos County</b> 12989 County Rd. G. 6 Conejos, CO 81129 (719) 376-5455</p>	<p><b>Costilla County</b> 233 Main St., Ste. A San Luis, CO 81152 (719) 672-4131</p> <p><b>Crowley County</b> 631 Main St., Ste. 100 Ordway, CO 81063 (719) 267-3546</p> <p><b>Custer County</b> 205 S. 6th St. Westcliffe, CO 81252 (719) 783-2371</p> <p><b>Delta County</b> 320 W. 5th St. Delta, CO 81416 (970) 874-2030</p> <p><b>Denver County</b> 1200 Federal Blvd. Denver, CO 80204</p> <p>3815 Steele St. Denver, CO 80205</p> <p>4685 Peoria St. Denver, CO 80239 (720) 944-4347</p> <p><b>Dolores County</b> 409 N. Main St. Dove Creek, CO 81324 (970) 677-2250</p>
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<p><b>Douglas County</b> 4400 Castleton Ct. Castle Rock, CO 80109 (303) 688-4825</p> <p><b>Eagle County</b> 551 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631 (970) 328-8840</p> <p><b>Elbert County</b> 75 Ute Ave. Kiowa, CO 80117 (303) 621-3149</p> <p><b>El Paso County</b> 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd. Colorado Springs, CO 80907 (719) 636-0000</p> <p><b>Fremont County</b> 172 Justice Center Rd. Canon City, CO 81212 (719) 275-2318</p> <p><b>Garfield County</b> 195 W. 14th St. Rifle, CO 81650 (970) 625-5282</p> <p><b>Gilpin County</b> 2960 Dory Hill Rd., Ste. 100 Black Hawk, CO 80422 (303) 582-5444</p> <p><b>Grand County</b> 620 Hemlock St. Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451 (970) 725-3331</p>	<p><b>Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties</b> 225 N. Pine St. Gunnison, CO 81230 (970) 641-3244</p> <p><b>Huerfano County</b> 121 W. 6th St. Walsenburg, CO 81089 (719) 738-2810</p> <p><b>Jackson County</b> 350 McKinley St. Walden, CO 80480 (970) 723-4750</p> <p><b>Jefferson County</b> 900 Jefferson County Pkwy. Golden, CO 80401 (303) 271-1388</p> <p><b>Kiowa County</b> 1307 Maine St. Eads, CO 81036 (719) 438-5541</p> <p><b>Kit Carson County</b> 252 S. 14th St. Burlington, CO 80807 (719) 346-8732</p> <p><b>Lake County</b> 112 W. 5th St. Leadville, CO 80461 (719) 486-2088</p> <p><b>La Plata County</b> 10 Burnett Ct., 1st Fl. Durango, CO 81301 (970) 382-6150</p> <p><b>Larimer County</b> 1501 Blue Spruce Dr. Fort Collins, CO 80524 (970) 498-6300</p>	<p><b>Las Animas County</b> 219 S. Chestnut St. Trinidad, CO 81082 (719) 846-2276</p> <p><b>Lincoln County</b> 103 3rd Ave. Hugo, CO 80821 (719) 743-2404</p> <p><b>Logan County</b> 508 S. 10th Ave., Ste. 2 Sterling, CO 80751 (970) 522-2194</p> <p><b>Mesa County</b> 510 29-1/2 Rd. Grand Junction, CO 81502 (970) 241-8480</p> <p><b>Mineral County</b> 1015 6th St. Del Norte, CO 81132 (719) 657-3381</p> <p><b>Moffat County</b> 595 Breeze St. Craig, CO 81625 (970) 824-8282</p> <p><b>Montezuma County</b> 109 W. Main, Rm. 203 Cortez, CO 81321 (970) 564-4100</p> <p><b>Montrose County</b> 1845 S. Townsend Montrose, CO 81401 (970) 252-5000</p> <p><b>Morgan County</b> 800 E. Beaver Ave. Fort Morgan, CO 80701 (970) 542-3530</p>
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<p><b>Otero County</b> 13 W. 3rd St. La Junta, CO 81050 (719) 383-3100</p> <p><b>Ouray County</b> 177 Sherman St., Unit 107 Ridgway, CO 81432 (970) 626-2299</p> <p><b>Park County</b> 59865 Hwy. 285, 2nd Fl. Bailey, CO 80421 (303) 816-5939</p> <p>825 Clark St. Fairplay, CO 80440 (719) 836-4139</p> <p><b>Phillips County</b> 127 E. Denver St., Ste. A Holyoke, CO 80734 (970) 854-2280</p> <p><b>Pitkin County</b> 0405 Castle Creek Rd., Ste. 8 Aspen, CO 81611 (970) 920-5235</p> <p><b>Prowers County</b> 1001 S. Main St. Lamar, CO 81052 (719) 336-7486</p>	<p><b>Pueblo County</b> 201 W. 8th St. Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 583-6160</p> <p><b>Rio Blanco County</b> 200 Main St., Ste. 200 Meeker, CO 81641 (970) 878-9640</p> <p>101 E. Main St. Rangely, CO 81648 (970) 878-9531</p> <p><b>Rio Grande County</b> 1015 6th St. Del Norte, CO 81132 (719) 657-3381</p> <p><b>Routt County</b> 135 6th St. Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 (970) 870-5533</p> <p><b>Saguache County</b> 605 Christy Ave. Saguache, CO 81149 (719) 655-2537</p> <p><b>San Juan County</b> 1557 Greene St. Silverton, CO 81433 (970) 387-5631</p>	<p><b>San Miguel County</b> 333 W. Colorado Ave., 3rd Fl. Telluride, CO 81435 (970) 728-4411</p> <p><b>Sedgwick County</b> 118 W. 3rd St. Julesburg, CO 80737 (970) 474-3397</p> <p><b>Summit County</b> 360 Peak One Dr., Ste. 230 Frisco, CO 80443 (970) 668-9160</p> <p><b>Teller County</b> 800 Research Dr., Ste. 100 Woodland Park, CO 80863 (719) 686-5518</p> <p><b>Washington County</b> 126 W. 5th Akron, CO 80720 (970) 345-2238</p> <p><b>Weld County</b> 315 N. 11th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631 (970) 352-1551</p> <p><b>Yuma County</b> 340 S. Birch St. Wray, CO 80758 (970) 332-4877</p>
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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) 698-2411

TDD: Dial 711

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### Veterans Affairs Regional Office

155 Van Gordon St.

Lakewood, CO 80228

(800) 827-1000

[www.benefits.va.gov/denver](http://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.

Administrative Office — Denver

155 Van Gordon St., Ste. 201

Lakewood, CO 80228

(303) 914-5832

<https://vets.colorado.gov> or

[cdvainfo@dmva.state.co.us](mailto:cdvainfo@dmva.state.co.us)

Administrative Office — Grand Junction

482 28 Rd.

Grand Junction, CO 81501

(970) 257-3760, (844) 458-9767

[cdvainfo@dmva.state.co.us](mailto:cdvainfo@dmva.state.co.us)

## In General

### Denver Veterans Center (for psychological counseling)

7465 E. 1st Ave., Ste. B

Denver, CO 80230

(303) 326-0645

Crisis line: 988 (press 1), or text 838255; (877) 927-8387

[www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)

There are also Colorado Vet Centers in Boulder, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, and Pueblo.

### Disabled American Veterans State Office

1485 Holland St.

Lakewood, CO 80215

(303) 922-3631

[www.davmembersportal.org/co/default.aspx](http://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](http://www.coloradolegalservices.org)

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

Address: 603 Main St., Alamosa

Phone: (719) 589-4993

**Boulder** (Boulder and Broomfield counties)

Address: 2935 Baseline Rd., Ste. 301, Boulder

Phone: (303) 449-7575

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

Address: 102 South Tejon, Ste. 430, Colorado Springs

Phone: (719) 471-0380

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

Address: 50 College Dr., #111, Craig

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

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

Address: 1905 N. Sherman St., Ste. 300, Denver

Phone: (303) 837-1313

**Dillon** (Clear Creek, Eagle, Gunnison, Lake, Pitkin, and Summit counties)

Address: P.O. Box 1895, Dillon

Phone: (800) 521-6968

**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

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

Address: 422 White Ave., Ste. 300, 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 N. Sherman St., Ste. 400, Denver

Phone: (800) 864-4330

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

Address: 1000 W. 6th St., Pueblo

Phone: (719) 545-6708

**Salida** (Chaffee, Custer, and Fremont counties; Park County shared with another office)

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

Phone: (719) 539-4251

## For Issues Regarding Medicaid

**Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing**

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://hcpf.colorado.gov>

## For Issues Regarding Public Assistance

**Department of Human Services**

<https://cdhs.colorado.gov>

For county Departments of Human Services, go to <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/our-partners/counties/contact-your-county-human-services-department> and click on the clickable map.