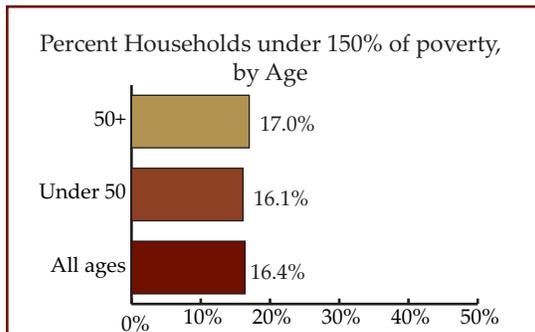


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

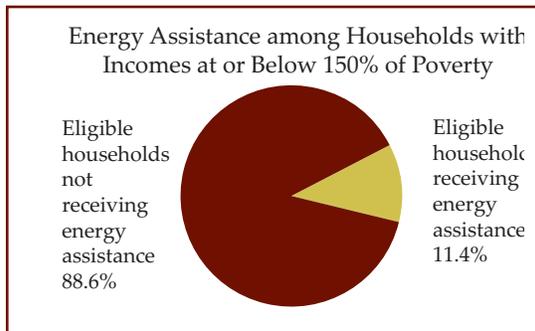
Colorado

Colorado in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	4,753,377
State median income:	\$71,559
Percent households age 50+:	40.5%

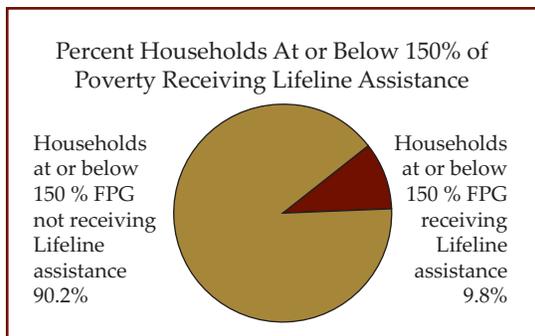


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 93.8%



Telephone Assistance

Lifeline and Link-Up are the primary sources of telephone assistance for low-income households in Colorado.

Lifeline (Colorado Low-Income Telephone Assistance Fund)

Lifeline provides participating low-income households with a monthly credit toward the price of basic local telephone service.

Benefits (2006)

Maximum monthly credit: \$16.50

Basic federal support: \$6.50

Maximum state support: \$6.50 (from Colorado Low-Income Telephone Assistance Program)

Federal match: \$3.50

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$3,500,329

State: \$218,686 (From 2005-06 Universal Service Administrative Company Survey)

Colorado provides the state portion of Lifeline funding through a surcharge of \$0.07 on the monthly bills of customers of telecommunications providers participating in the Low-Income Telephone Assistance Program.

Eligibility (2006)

To receive Lifeline assistance, state residents must call the State Department of Social Services (DSS) to verify their eligibility. DSS then attempts to verify the applicant's Social Security number against a database of state residents who are enrolled in one or more of the programs listed below. If DSS finds a match, the applicant is certified for participation in the Lifeline program. Households enrolled in any of the following programs are eligible for assistance:

- Old Age Pension
- Aid to the Blind
- Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND)

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Participation (2005)

Households served: 29,299

Participation rate: 59.0% (based on participation in SSI program)

LinkUp

Qualified customers receive a discount on the price of installing new telephone service.

Benefits (2006)

LinkUp subscribers receive the following:

- A credit of \$30 or a 50% reduction in the charges customers pay for connecting to new telephone service, whichever is less.
- The option of deferring payment on the balance of the connection fee (up to \$200) with no interest charges for a period not to exceed one year

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$12,261

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 710

Energy Assistance

Energy assistance programs in Colorado include the following:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Property Tax, Rent, and Heat Rebate

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the state of Colorado with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate

energy needs. With this grant, Colorado distributes payments through its Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), which includes two categories of assistance: heating and crisis. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for Colorado's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2006)

Crisis: \$1,500 maximum per household

Heating: \$800 maximum per household

Clients receive a benefit once a year, paid electronically to their energy provider unless home energy costs are included in rent, in which case the customer's benefits are electronically deposited into a special debit card or bank account.

Heating assistance is available from November 1 to April 30, with an early application period of one month for older and disabled applicants. Crisis assistance is available year-round and may be used to repair broken furnaces and windows, to repair roads so that heating fuel may be delivered to homes, for an eligible household's emergency hotel stay, and for clothes and blankets.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$76,147,311

Federal

Tribal set-aside: \$25,000

Regular net block grant: \$31,342,366

Additional one-time net block grant: \$361,826

Total emergency/cont.: \$13,112,459

Transfer TANF funds: \$1,500,000

FY2005 carryover funds: \$5,570,957

Leveraging incentive program: \$284,703

REACH grant: \$1,000,000

Other: \$800,000

State

General Assembly appropriation: \$20,000,000
(State Severance tax)

Charitable

Energy Outreach Colorado: \$2,150,000

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

The Colorado Department of Human Services distributes grants to county departments of social services and nonprofits throughout the state, along with listings of eligible residents in their service areas. These listings are generated from a LEAP-maintained database of state residents receiving public assistance. The local agencies mail applications to persons listed as eligible for LEAP in their service areas. The county departments of social services accept applications from persons not contacted by LEAP agencies, determine eligibility, and make payments to energy providers.

LEAP is supplemented by \$2.15 million in funds raised by the Colorado Energy Assistance Foundation, a public/private partnership of Colorado government and advocacy groups, private businesses, and utilities. The foundation raises funds to supplement LEAP.

Colorado allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

Heating:	73%
Crisis:	3%
Weatherization:	15%
Administration, etc.:	9%

Eligibility

State residents with household incomes at or below 185% of poverty, or on public assistance, are eligible for LEAP assistance. Participation in Colorado's LEAP program does not reduce the client's eligibility or benefits under other state assistance programs.

Participation (FY2006)

Households served by program component:

Heating: 96,127

Winter/year-round crisis: 1,680

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)—Energy Saving Partners (E\$P)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides Colorado with a formula distribution grant to help low-income residents—especially those 60 years and older, disabled, or living with young children—increase the energy efficiency of their

homes, reduce their energy expenditures, and improve health and safety.

Benefits (FY2006)

Average benefit per household: \$2,800

Weatherization technicians use energy audits to identify and implement energy-saving measures for each home. Examples of these measures include the following:

- Insulating attic, walls, floors, perimeter, ducts
- Tuning up, repairing, or replacing the furnace or heating unit and/or air conditioner
- Providing ventilation fans—including electric, attic, ceiling, or whole house fans—to increase air circulation
- Stopping air infiltration by weather-stripping and caulking around doors and windows, replacing broken glass panes, and installing storm windows
- Blower door targeted air leakage work

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$15,826,958

Federal:

Department of Energy: \$5,504,036

LIHEAP: \$3,840,922

State: \$4,000,000 (appropriated)

Utility: \$2,482,000

Federal funding includes the DOE/Weatherization Assistance Program appropriation and 15% of the state's LIHEAP block grant. Approximately \$2.5 million in state funds is provided from Xcel Energy.

The Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) in Colorado distributes grants to eight agencies throughout the state, including county governments and associations of local governments. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, and provide weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and implementing suggested measures.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Eligibility (FY2006)

Resident households with incomes at or below 185% of poverty, or who participate in one or more of the following programs, are eligible:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Supplementary Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Colorado Old Age Pension (COAP)

Eligible housing types include single-family houses, mobile homes, and multifamily units—both rental and owner-occupied. Priority is given to households with children, elderly, or disabled individuals, and to homes with unsafe heating systems.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 4,082

Property Tax, Rent, and Heat Rebate
The Property Tax, Rent, and Heat Rebate program provides a rebate on home heating payments made by eligible state-resident households, as well as a property tax rebate. The below refers only to the heat portion of the rebate.

Benefits (FY2005)

Maximum heat rebate: \$192 per household

The heat rebate equals the lesser of the following amounts:

- The total heat expenses paid during the year (either directly or through rent payments)
- \$192 minus 3.2% of the amount by which the household's total income exceeds \$5,000 (single person) or \$8,700 (married filing jointly)

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$3,221,271 (heat portion of rebate)
The Property Tax, Rent, and Heat Rebate program is funded through an annual appropriation from the General Fund for State Expenses and administered by the Colorado Department of Revenue.

Eligibility (FY2006)

Colorado residents who are disabled and/or age 65 and older (or a surviving spouse age 58 and older) may qualify for assistance. The income limitations for this rebate are \$11,000 for single individuals and \$14,700 for married couples. However, the maximum rebate will be less if the taxpayer's income exceeds \$5,000 (single person) or \$8,700 (married filing jointly).

Participation (2006)

Households served: 38,827 (includes all filings)

Seasonal, Health, and Income-Related Disconnection Policies

Health

Colorado does not have a temperature-based disconnect policy for residential natural gas or electric service. Instead, utilities are required to delay for up to 60 days disconnection of residential service to households where a medical professional certifies that such an action would result in a decline in the health of the customer or other permanent household resident.

Deferred Payments

Colorado prohibits the disconnection of residential natural gas or electric service if the customer pays at least 1/10 of arrears and agrees to a deferred-payment arrangement not to exceed six months.