

## **Utility Assistance Larimer County, 2008**

**Payment Extensions and Payment Plans** – If a customer has a good history of paying their utility bills, it is possible to ask for an extension on the payment or to work out a payment plan with the utility company. However, if the customer has already received a disconnect notice or is chronically delinquent on their bills, the utility companies are generally reluctant to work with them.

**LEAP** – 498-6302 or toll-free 1-866-432-8435

Available through County Health & Human Services November 1<sup>st</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup>; pays for a portion of heating bills. Income guidelines and eligibility criteria apply. If customer qualifies for heating help, they must agree to LEAP weatherization too. Customers qualify by income for one weatherization program - LEAP or REACH, not both. Longs Peak Weatherization is the contractor for both programs.

**Catholic Charities Northern Payment Assistance Fund** – 484-5010

Open M-W-F, 1-4pm, when funds are available (funds periodically run out). Client must have a utility shutoff notice and can receive assistance only once in a 12-month period. Assists with utility shut-offs (Xcel, City of Ft. Collins, REA, propane) for residents of Fort Collins and north to the Wyoming/Colorado border.

**Salvation Army** – 207-4472

Open M & W, 10am-12noon, when funds are available (funds periodically run out.) Client must have shutoff notice. Serves Fort Collins, LaPorte, Bellvue, Timnath and Wellington.

**Disabled Resource Services (DRS)** – FC 482-2700, LV 667-0816

Provides up to \$50 assistance to DRS clients for miscellaneous financial assistance, including utilities, when funds are available (funds periodically run out.) Individuals with disabilities may qualify for utility assistance through agencies that serve their particular disability (Example: Person with Multiple Sclerosis can try contacting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for help.)

**House of Neighborly Service** – 667-4939

Provides assistance for City of Loveland utility bills and recently started helping with other utility bills like Xcel for residents of Southern Larimer County only. Clients are eligible for help once per 12-month period.

**Crossroads Ministries of Estes Park** – 577-0610

Provides utility assistance to Estes Valley residents only.

**REACH** (Longs Peak Weatherization) – 1-800-200-9006

Free weatherization including insulation, safe testing of furnaces and water heaters. Income guidelines and eligibility requirements; available for both homeowners and renters. Currently there is a short wait list.

**Various Churches** provide some utility assistance, when funds are available. Some churches only provide assistance to their members; others serve anyone in the community.