

3.758.47 Methodology for Calculating Heating Fuel Assistance Program Benefits [Rev. eff. 11/1/15]

The payment amount for an eligible Heating Fuel Assistance Program household shall be determined in accordance with the following method:

Step A. Determine Estimated Home Heating Costs (EHHC)

The county department/Contractor shall determine estimated home heating costs for November 1st through April 30th for the household's current residence at the time of application. The methodology for calculating estimated home heating costs is outlined below.

The county department/Contractor shall determine the applicant household's estimated home heating costs as follows:

1. An applicant household's estimated home heating cost shall consist of the total actual home heating costs for the primary heating fuel for November 1st through April 30th, of the prior year's heating season. Vendors serving applicant households shall be required to supply actual home heating costs for November 1st through April 30th of the prior year's heating season.
2. For any applicant whose home heating costs for the prior year's heating season are not available or determined by the county department to be invalid, the county department shall use the flat rate amount. The State Department shall adjust the flat rate amounts annually based on the average actual home heating costs found in the LEAP system by dwelling type for the prior year's heating season contained in the flat rate chart attached.

Step B. Initial Statewide Adjustment

The State LEAP office will adjust benefit levels at the beginning of each LEAP program year based upon the projected number of leap applications to be received and the estimated level of funding. Annually, this calculation determines the percentage of the estimated home heating costs (EHHC) of the applicant household to be adjusted.

Step C. Adjustment for Electric Heat

Households using electric heat will have their electric usage costs reduced to the percentage amounts listed below.

Dwelling Type	Heat %
House, Mobile Homes	62% for heat
Duplex, Triplex, Fourplex, Townhouse	48% for heat
Apartment, Condo, Hotel, Cabin, Tiny Home	43% for heat
Camper, 5 th Wheel, RV	50% for heat

Step D. Adjustment household income contribution

The state department shall reduce the amount of the estimated home heating costs (EHHC) based on the chart below to determine the household income contribution:

Household Income Contribution:

LEVEL OF FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	EHHC ADJUSTMENT
0 – 75% FPL	0%
75.01 – 125% FPL	10%
125.01 – 175% FPL	20%
175.01% +	30%

Step E. Adjustment for Shared Living Arrangements

The estimated home heating costs shall be adjusted if the household shares living arrangements with other households but is determined to be a separate household as defined in the “Definitions” section of these rules. If the household shares living arrangements with other households, the estimated home heating cost shall be divided by the number of separate households sharing the living arrangements, whether or not all households sharing the living arrangements are eligible for the Heating Fuel Assistance Program.

Step F. Adjustment for Subsidized Housing Home Heating Allowance

The State Department shall adjust the amount of estimated home heating cost remaining after Step B if the household resides in subsidized housing (as defined in the “Definitions” section of these rules). A flat rate rental cost allowance for heating (\$30 per month or \$180 per heating season) shall be deducted from the remaining amount of estimated home heating costs. If the household does not live in subsidized housing, the amount remaining after Step B shall be the estimated home heating cost.

Step G. Determine Heating Fuel Assistance Program Amount

The State Department shall determine a benefit amount for each eligible household by subtracting the applicable adjustments listed above, in Steps B-F from the household’s estimated home heating costs (EHHC) determined in Step A, 1-3. Any eligible household will receive at least the minimum, up to and including, the maximum benefit amount established by the Department for the LEAP program year.

BENEFIT MATRIX REGULAR AND WINTER CRISIS BENEFIT

REGULAR BENEFIT MATRIX

Benefit calculations less than or equal to \$200:	Benefit calculations greater than \$200 and less than or equal to \$1,000:	Benefit Calculations equal to or above \$1,000.00
LEAP benefit issued is \$200	LEAP benefit issued is the dollar amount of the benefit calculation	LEAP benefit issued is \$1,000

BENEFIT MATRIX YEAR ROUND CRISIS

The year round furnace repair and replacement benefit minimum payment is the minimal amount to resolve the crisis; the maximum, listed as \$4,800, is an average maximum benefit for the furnace repair/replacement households. The year round crisis benefits are our furnace repair/replacement program.

ATTACHMENT TO STATE OF COLORADO DETAILED MODEL PLAN

Use of SMI and FPL in Colorado LIHEAP

Use of State Median Income (SMI):

The State of Colorado LIHEAP has designated the income limits for their LIHEAP Program as 60% of SMI. Each applicant household must meet the SMI gross income guidelines to be considered for a LIHEAP benefit.

Use of Federal Poverty Level (FPL):

The State of Colorado uses the FPL chart in determining the amount of a LIHEAP benefit each household qualifies for once all other eligibility requirements have been met. The benefit calculation makes an adjustment down to the EHC based on the household's total gross income to ensure that the highest benefit is going to the households with the highest energy costs and the lowest income. The use of the FPL chart is only used to determine the amount of the benefit and is not to be confused with the household needing to first meet the gross income limit set at 60% of SMI.

LEAP 2025 – 2026 Rates

Household Income Limits

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income (60% of State Median Income)
1	\$3,607
2	\$4,717
3	\$5,827
4	\$6,938
5	\$8,048
6	\$9,158
7	\$9,366
8	\$9,574
Each Additional Person	\$208

2025-2026 Monthly Percentage of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Household Size	75% FPL	125% FPL	175% FPL
1	\$978	\$1,630	\$2,282
2	\$1,322	\$2,204	\$3,085
3	\$1,666	\$2,776	\$3,887
4	\$2,009	\$3,349	\$4,688
5	\$2,354	\$3,923	\$5,492
6	\$2,697	\$4,495	\$6,293
7	\$3,041	\$5,068	\$7,095
8	\$3,385	\$5,641	\$7,898
Each Additional Person	\$344	\$573	\$802
+			

Flat Rates

Dwelling Type	Natural Gas	Propane Fuel Oil	Electric	Wood	Fuel Oil/Kerosene	Propane Bottles	Wood Gathering
House/Modular Home	\$571	\$1,157	\$1,348	\$1,370	\$1,081	\$669	\$200
Mobile Home	\$506	\$1,079	\$1,256	\$885	\$578	\$984	\$200
Duplex, Triplex, Fourplex,	\$446	\$969	\$980	\$614	\$482	\$341	\$200
Townhouse	\$416	\$686	\$999	\$614	\$1,268	\$341	\$200
Apartment/Condo	\$314	\$818	\$648	\$594	\$482	\$549	\$200
Hotel/Motel	\$331	\$859	\$684	\$594	\$482	\$549	\$200
Cabin	\$530	\$1,072	\$1,085	\$594	\$482	\$543	\$200
Tiny Home	\$774	\$962	\$1,021	\$594	\$482	\$549	\$200
Camper, 5 th Wheel, RV	\$431	\$898	\$1,124	\$560	\$432	\$710	\$200

Standard Amount for Heat in Rent

Dwelling Type	Natural Gas	Propane Fuel Oil	Electric	Wood	Fuel Oil/Kerosene	Propane Bottles
House/Modular Home	\$200	\$405	\$472	\$480	\$378	\$234
Mobile Home	\$177	\$378	\$440	\$310	\$202	\$344
Duplex, Triplex, Fourplex,	\$156	\$339	\$343	\$215	\$169	\$119
Townhouse	\$146	\$240	\$350	\$215	\$444	\$119
Apartment/ Condo	\$110	\$286	\$227	\$208	\$169	\$192
Hotel/Motel	\$116	\$301	\$239	\$208	\$169	\$192
Cabin	\$186	\$375	\$380	\$208	\$169	\$190
Tiny Home	\$271	\$337	\$357	\$208	\$169	\$192
Camper, 5th Wheel, RV	\$151	\$314	\$393	\$196	\$151	\$249

Heat Portion of Electric EHC

Dwelling Type	Heat %
House, Mobile Homes	62% for heat
Duplex, Triplex, Fourplex, Townhouse	48% for heat
Apartment, Condo, Hotel, Cabin, Tiny Home	43% for heat
Camper, 5 th Wheel, RV	50% for heat

Household Income Contribution:

LEVEL OF FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	EHC ADJUSTMENT
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175.01% +	30%

Minimum Benefit - \$200 Maximum Benefit - \$1,000