



fact sheet

ENERGY OUTREACH COLORADO

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LEADING COLORADO CHARITY

Energy Outreach Colorado is one of the largest organizations of its kind in the country and the only non-profit in Colorado that raises funds for energy assistance. We consistently receive top ratings from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charity organizations. We also are an accredited charity member of the Better Business Bureau.

LOW ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

On average, our administrative costs are around 6 percent, meaning 94 cents out of every dollar we raise goes directly to needy families.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS: OCTOBER 1, 2008 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Energy Assistance – Emergency Help and Homeless Prevention

Energy Outreach distributes funding to more than 100 emergency assistance sites across the state, including the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). Funds are administered as direct payments to local utility and fuel companies to pay a portion of a limited-income households' overdue bills.

EOC funding for energy assistance program	\$10.36 million
Number of households assisted through EOC agencies and LEAP	124,000
Average EOC benefit per household	\$425

Energy Efficiency and Education – Saving Energy and Money

Energy Outreach supports longer-term solutions so that limited income households don't have to rely on energy assistance. We provide grants and partner with other organizations such as Xcel Energy, Atmos Energy and the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships to improve the energy efficiency of affordable housing and non-profit facilities across the state. We recently were selected to administer the Governor's Energy Office Multi-Family Weatherization program, which is funded by the Department of Energy and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

EOC funding for energy efficiency programs	\$1.85 million
Number of Colorado nonprofit facilities receiving energy upgrades	20

Advocacy – Supporting Safe, Healthy and Affordable Housing

Energy Outreach represents the interests of limited income consumers in regulatory activities, including utility rate cases and legislation. We have successfully represented Colorado's most vulnerable households in many utility rate cases at the Public Utilities Commission. Other actions include 2007 passage of Colorado Senate Bill 22 allowing the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to consider separate policies for low-income consumers; and 2006 and 2008 passage of legislation to allocate millions of dollars in mineral and energy severance taxes for energy assistance in Colorado.

HELPING ALL COLORADANS AFFORD HOME ENERGY

To make a tax-deductible donation or to receive help, please visit our website at www.EnergyOutreach.org or call toll-free 1-866-HEAT-HELP. Thank you for your support!





frequently asked questions

ENERGY OUTREACH COLORADO

Q. What type of organization is Energy Outreach Colorado?

A. Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) was established in 1989 as a private, state-wide, 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that helps limited-income Coloradans afford energy for their homes. It is the only nonprofit in the state that raises funds for energy bill payment assistance.

Q. What does EOC do?

A. EOC raises funds through utility, corporate, foundation and individual donors to support two major initiatives: energy bill payment assistance and energy efficiency improvements for affordable housing and nonprofit facilities. EOC also represents the interests of lower-income consumers by providing data and information on the needs of limited income households to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, the state legislature and other policy makers.

Q. How does EOC manage energy bill payment assistance?

A. The energy bill payment assistance program provides millions of dollars in energy assistance grants each year to more than 100 community assistance organizations across Colorado, including the Salvation Army, Family Resource Centers Association and the state Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). EOC funding is distributed locally by agency case workers and payments go directly to utility companies to pay a portion of recipients' overdue bills. Each year, energy assistance helps thousands of Colorado's working families, elderly and individuals with special health needs remain safe and warm in their homes. This is meant to address emergency, short-term needs.

Q. What is the need in Colorado for this program?

A. The need is large and growing. About 400,000 Colorado households – as many as one in five – are eligible for energy assistance, based on federal income guidelines. Lower-income households also are greatly impacted by the volatility of home energy costs and challenging economic conditions. In some cases, households are literally faced with the dilemma of paying for food for paying their utility bill.

Q. How can someone apply for EOC energy bill payment assistance?

A. To apply for assistance, go to www.energyoutreach.org and click on “bill payment assistance,” or call toll-free at 1-866-432-8435. At both locations, you can input your zip code and receive a list of nearby agencies that offer energy assistance. To be eligible, an applicant must meet income guidelines and provide certain documents.

Q. How can someone make a tax-deductible donation to EOC?

A. EOC gladly accepts any amount of donation by mail (225 E. 16th Ave., Ste 200, Denver, CO 80203); online at www.energyoutreach.org; or by calling 303-825-8750, ext. 231. Many utilities operating in Colorado offer the ability to check off a box to add a monthly tax-deductible gift to your energy bill.



frequently asked questions (cont.)

ENERGY OUTREACH COLORADO

- Q. How does EOC help improve the energy efficiency of affordable housing?**
- A. EOC partners with other funders, such as utility companies Xcel Energy, Atmos Energy and SourceGas, to manage the installation of energy efficiency measures in multi-family affordable housing communities across Colorado. In 2009, EOC was selected to implement the Governor’s Energy Office Multi-Family Weatherization program. Funded by the Department of Energy and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the program helps limited income families reduce energy consumption, save money and have access to safer, more comfortable living environments. These conservation efforts are meant to provide longer-term solutions to making home energy more affordable for limited income families.
- Q. How does EOC help nonprofit facilities?**
- A. EOC’s Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program (NEEP) funds energy audits and efficiency measures for facilities owned by nonprofits, allowing them to maximize their budgets for vital community services.
- Q. Why does Energy Outreach Colorado offer these energy conservation programs?**
- A. These programs are designed to provide longer-term solutions to making home energy more affordable for limited income families, and reduce the demand for energy assistance over time. They help increase home safety by reducing injury, illness and mortality. They also help keep people in their homes longer, thereby helping reduce homelessness and the transient nature of households that can’t pay their bills. All consumers benefit when utility companies can reduce their bad debt and collections costs, and reduce the demand for electric and gas consumption and power generation.
- Q. How does an affordable housing building owner or provider, or a nonprofit facility that serves low-income families, receive energy efficiency support from EOC?**
- A. Go to www.energyoutreach.org and click on “energy efficiency” to review eligibility requirements and availability of funding.