



# Colorado Counties, Inc Human Services 101

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Commissioners

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## Purpose

- Providing essential human services especially for those who are least able to help themselves. Protecting the vulnerable, advocating for those without voice, responding by providing basic human services to elderly, disabled, abused and hungry.

# Get Ready Acronym Hell

COLA

AND

AFDC

ACF

CPS

CWAC

HHS

BCA

HCPF

TANF

CCCAP

ACF

WAC

CHP

CWS

CDHS

CDHS

CHSDA



# Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

## Michelle Barnes, Director

- Supervises all 64 County Departments of human services administration of:
  - Cash and food assistance programs
  - Child support enforcement services
  - Child welfare services
  
  - Primary programs
    - Colorado Works (TANF)
    - Child Welfare Services
    - Old Age Pension (OAP)
    - Aid to the Needy Disabled/Bland
    - Adult Protective Services
    - Low Income Energy Assistance
    - Food Assistance

# Board of County Commissioners

- BOCC in each county is responsible for administering public assistance and human services. Human Services are state supervised, county administered
- Funding comes from Federal, State and County match
- Program matches vary but generally speaking the county share is 20%



# Programs



# Human Services Programs

Colorado Works  
TANF

Child Protective Services  
CPS

Old Age Pension  
OAP

Aid to Needy Disabled

Cash Assistance to low income elderly

Low Income energy assistance  
LEAP

Food Assistance

Adult Protective Services  
APS

Homemaker

Veteran Services

Foster Care Chaffee

Single Entry Point  
SEP

IV-E Waiver

Child Support

Medical Assistance

Child Care Assistance  
CCAP

# Child Welfare Programs

- Services to children who are dependent of neglected or at risk
- Prevention and reduction of out-of-home placement of youth
- Child Protective Services
- Colorado Community Response
- Core Services
- IV-E Waiver



# Child Protection

- Counties are responsible for coordination of all investigations of reports of intra-familial abuse or neglect, third-party abuse or neglect of persons under 10 and institutional abuse.
  - Screen reports
  - Conduct investigations
  - Provide intervention if appropriate
  - Must notify law enforcement
  - Placement and treatment plan if out of home placement is warranted
  - Courts decide about custody and ultimate removal

# Medical Assistance (Medicaid)

- Individuals and families whose financial resources are insufficient to meet the cost of necessary medical care are entitled to assistance
  - County departments determine eligibility
- State and Federal governments share the costs
- Counties are responsible for the 20% costs of eligibility determination function



# Food Assistance (SNAP) (Food Stamps)

- Provides eligible recipients with EBT cards for purchase of food.
  - Individuals up to 130% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) who are under age 60 and able-bodied and
  - Individuals up to 165% of the FPL who are elderly-over 60 or disabled
- Eligibility is also based on income, assets, allowable deductions and size of household. U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) determines eligibility criteria.
- Actual food benefits 100% Federally funded-
- Administration costs split between county 20% and state 30%

# Core Services

- Assistance to families for therapy, home based services, life skills, mental health services, substance abuse treatment.



# Colorado Works Program

## Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

- Place participants in jobs, assist with terminating dependence on programs, job preparation, work, assistance for childcare, reduce incidence of out of wedlock pregnancies, encourage formation of 2 parent families, cash assistance.
- Basic Cash Assistance (BCA)
- Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)



# Adult Services

- Adult Protective Services: intervention for at risk adults 18+
- Homemaker: home services to low income and or disable seniors 60+
- Single Entry Point: services to assist adults to stay in their homes rather than in nursing homes or extended care facilities
- Veteran Services: providing consults, information, support and advocacy to Veterans

# Low Income Energy Assistance (LEAP)

- Designed to help low income Colorado residents with winter utility bills
- Program is 100% federally funded
  - Qualifications
    - Family household 185% federal poverty level (FPL)
    - Home heating paid directly to energy provider or included in rent

# Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

- Federal welfare reform bill requires state to maintain a level of spending on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) which is called Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
- Failure to meet this level reduces the amount of the federal block grant. Losses are made up by state and local funds.
- MOE is essentially a “matching portion”, but it is referred to as MOE
- Go figure...



# Common Commissioner Questions

- Are Human Services programs a huge drain on County budgets?
- Can you charge rent to each of the mandatory programs?
- Can an individual be on assistance forever?
- Is there a lot of fraud with these programs?
- Are there outcome expectations for these programs?



“Human Services  
Funding is the  
Black Hole  
of County  
Government”

# Grants-Blessing and Curse!

- Grants

- Great opportunity to serve a new population, introduce a new program, tempting to access new funding sources...
- Grants terminate

“Strong people  
stand up for  
themselves but  
stronger people  
stand up for  
others.

- Unknown



# Resources that you can use!

**Human Services Directors**

**CCI New Commissioner Handbook\***

Thank You  
and  
phone a friend  
if you need  
help!



Don't ever hesitate to contact us  
( well... contact Wendy, Sue is still novice)



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