



Positive Press

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SYRINGE SERVICE AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

By Sarah Money, Access Point Pueblo Program Manager



Access Point Pueblo had a very busy 2020! Despite Covid-19, unexpected staff changes, and funding concerns, we are dedicated to serving our clients. We have had exponential growth over the last year and seen great success with our Wednesday evening program, especially during the holiday season. CHN has recently established an official partnership with Front Range Clinic, and we now have a MAT provider on site one day a week. We are having discussions with other medical providers in town and exploring potential future partnerships. In addition, we now offer more comprehensive STI testing services using Binx Boxes, allowing individuals to collect their own samples and mail them in for analysis.

Access Point Pueblo is an essential service and is continuing to operate through the winter and Covid-19. In 2020, Access Point Pueblo had 11,448 total visits from 2,572 different people. We distributed 780,090 syringes and participants returned 546,471 syringes. We gave out 6,226 doses of naloxone and 1,018 doses of Narcan. Our participants report saving 234 lives with the doses we provided. We distributed 10,005 fentanyl test strips, another overdose prevention tool. 2020 is expected to be the deadliest year on record for fatal overdoses. Accessing medical care for overdoses or wound care is even more challenging during the pandemic. We are so grateful that we can continue to support our folx through such difficult times. The year of 2020 demonstrated the need for syringe service programs more so



LEAP (Low-Income Energy Assistance Program)



LEAP (Low-Income Energy Assistance Program) is happening right now. LEAP is designed to help eligible low-income households with winter home heating costs. LEAP is available to all individuals meeting financial guidelines. The program runs from November 1st through April 30th. If you applied last year, you should have received the 2020-21 application in the mail. If you did not apply last year and would like to apply this year, your SCHN case manager can mail you an application or you can call 1-866-432-8435 to receive an application.

You may qualify for LEAP if:

You pay home heating costs to an energy provider, fuel dealer, or as part of your rent.

You are a permanent legal resident of the United States and Colorado or you have household members that are U.S. citizens.

You provide proof of lawful presence in the U.S.

Your maximum family household income falls within designated guidelines. A “household” consists of people who live with you and for whom you are financially responsible.

LEAP does not pay the entire cost of home heating. It is dispersed ONCE per year from November 1st through April 30th. For more information call the toll-free line at 1-866-432-8435 or your Case Manager for further assistance.

MEDICAID RE-ENROLLMENT MAY BE DUE FOR SOME BY THE END OF FEBRUARY

If you are on Medicaid: You may be due for a re-enrollment at the end of this month. Be on the lookout for information for letters or an email from Colorado PEAK informing you that your Medicaid enrollment needs attention.

Many clients who are currently retaining their Medicaid through forced passing may lose their benefits at the end of the month, or the end of the Public Health emergency if they fail to re-apply or are found over-income for Medicaid.



- ⇒ *Please respond immediately to any letters that you receive. If you complete the necessary application and are found to be within income limits, you will likely retain your Medicaid benefits*
- ⇒ *If you re-apply and are found over-income for Medicaid, you will likely qualify for a Special Enrollment Period with Connect for Health Colorado for marketplace insurance*
- ⇒ *People who do not re-apply within their window, and are found over income for Medicaid after their window, may have no opportunity for special enrollment with Connect for Health, leaving them without 2021 coverage*

FEBRUARY 7TH IS NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

FEBRUARY 7

**NATIONAL BLACK
HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**



National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed annually on February 7th to increase awareness, spark conversations, and highlight the work being done to reduce HIV in Black or

African American communities in the United States and show support for people with HIV in these communities.

The first National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was marked in 1999 as a grass-roots education effort to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment in communities of color.

The 2021 campaign is **Let's Stop HIV Together** and you can help raise awareness of HIV within Black communities and provide information on access to care using the CDC's **Let's Stop HIV Together** campaign resources. Even when we are physically apart, we all have a role to play in ending HIV and that's why the 2021 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day theme is "We're in This Together."

The campaign aims to empower communities, partners and healthcare providers to reduce HIV stigma and promote prevention, testing and treatment among all people in the United States. With campaign resources, partners and other organizations can play a role in preventing HIV and helping people with HIV stay healthy. The **Let's Stop HIV Together** campaign is part of the national Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative.

**SCHN WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY OBSERVANCE
WILL BE A VIRTUAL EVENT THIS YEAR**

For the past 10 years in March, the Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN) has been the host of a luncheon or breakfast for the observance of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD). This year, due to COVID-19, the observance will be a virtual event.

Every year on March 10—and throughout the month of March—local, state, federal, and nonprofit organizations come together to shed light on the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls and show support for those at risk of and living with HIV.

Today, one in four people living with HIV in the United States (nearly one million) is a woman. Only about half of women living with HIV are in care and only four in 10 have the virus under control according to the CDC.

Tremendous progress has been made against HIV and AIDS in the U.S., but women remain vulnerable to infection—especially black or African-American and Hispanic women. Women face unique HIV risks and challenges that can prevent them from getting needed care and treatment. Addressing these issues remains critical to achieving an HIV and AIDS free generation.

MARCH 10

**NATIONAL
WOMEN & GIRLS
HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**





COVID-19 UPDATES

The following service modifications remain in effect until further notice:

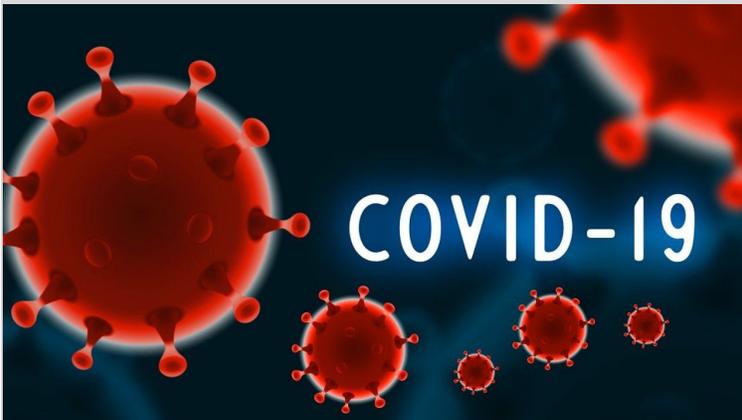
Case Management, Housing Services, PrEP Navigation, and Health Access/Insurance Navigation services continue to only be provided by phone or email. Your Case Manager and Health Access Coordinator are available by phone (719-578-9092) or email.

The **Food Pantry** in Colorado Springs is still only providing “to go” food bags on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 - 4. Call SCHN at 719-578-9092 to place your order and the food will be delivered to you at the back door. The **Food Pantry** in Pueblo is doing “to go” food bags again on Mondays & Fridays from 10 – 12 and 1 – 4. Please call Teresa (719-924-8925) ahead of time to place an order. If you wish to receive a food card, call your case manager.

For **Transportation Assistance**, call or email your case manager. For **Dental Assistance**, call or email your case manager. For a **Behavioral Health** referral, call or email your case manager.

HIV/HCV Testing appointments can be scheduled by calling 719-578-9092. **Access Point/Syringe Exchange Pueblo** will provide “to go” kits through the drive-through window at the Pueblo office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 – 12 and 1:30 – 4, as well as Wednesday evenings from 5pm–7pm.

Experiencing Challenges due to COVID-19?



COVID has really affected a lot of people in the past year. If you have been affected by COVID in anyway, please contact your case manager to see if you qualify for assistance. We would love to see if we could provide additional support through these difficult times.

Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them. **Tuesday & Thursday**
10am-12:00pm & 1:30pm-4:00pm
Southern Colorado Health Network
807 N. Greenwood St., Ste 200
Pueblo, CO 81003



719-621-1105

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