



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

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SCHN CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM & FOOD BASKET/FOOD CARD GIVEAWAY SLATED FOR DECEMBER 2023; DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS NOV. 7

The SCHN holiday gift program for children of clients, along with food baskets or food cards for clients, is scheduled to take place again this year in December.

Clients who are eligible for the 2023 SCHN holiday gift program will be receiving the program registration form in the mail soon. Eligible clients are those with children 14-years old and younger who are in the client's physical custody at least 50 per cent of the time. If you are eligible, please fill out the form and send it back in the enclosed envelope addressed to SCHN. **The deadline for returning the form is Nov. 7.**



Included on the children's holiday gift program registration form is a box to check if you also wish to sign up for a holiday food basket. Holiday food baskets will be available to all Colorado Springs area SCHN clients and holiday food gift cards will be given to SCHN clients in the other SCHN service area counties.

The pick-up dates for the children's gifts and food baskets along with the mailing or distribution dates of holiday food gift cards will be in December and exact dates will be reported in the November/December Positive Press newsletters.

If you are interested in donating to the children's holiday gift program, call SCHN at 719-578-9092.

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) Begins Again on November 1

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) will get underway again on November 1. LEAP is designed to help eligible low-income households with winter home heating costs and is available to all individuals meeting certain financial guidelines.

If you applied last year, you should have received the 2023-24 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.

LEAP does not pay the entire cost of home heating. If qualified, you will receive a one-time payment sometime between November 1, 2023, and April 30, 2024. For additional information, call the toll-free LEAP telephone number listed above in paragraph two.



2023 National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is Oct. 15



On what is the last day of Hispanic Heritage Month, October 15, the government of the USA established National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS within the Latino community on this day each year.

HIV infection has had a devastating and disproportionate impact on the Latino community. It is estimated that more than 80,000 Latinos are currently living with HIV/AIDS in the USA and, unfortunately, stigma and a general lack of awareness about testing, prevention and education continues to help spread the epidemic.

Created by the Hispanic Federation and the Latino Commission on AIDS in 2003, NLAAD promotes and sponsors diverse prevention activities that target Latino families. Timely diagnosis of HIV and linkage to care is essential for improving health outcomes of individuals living with HIV.

To learn more about NLAAD and the impact of HIV on Hispanic/Latino communities, visit NLAAD.org or go to the websites for the Hispanic Federation and the Latino Commission of AIDS.

2023 Women's Retreat: October 20 and 21



For additional information
contact Tabitha at 719-578-9092



Para información adicional comuníquese
con Lupe o Myra al 719-578-9092

PREVENTION UPDATES

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HEALTH HUB IN PUEBLO

There were some major successes in September for the Drug User Health Hub! For the past few months, Health Hub staff have been working with Denver Health to launch HCV treatment via telehealth. We are now able to support enrollment! Appointments are available on a walk-in basis with Denver Health on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

The Health Hub was the host for its first Regional Provider Network meeting on Friday, September 29. Any service providers serving people who use drugs in Pueblo County are eligible and invited to participate. Stakeholder participation is also encouraged. If you would like to learn more, please contact Sarah Money, Health Hub Program Manager, at Sarah.money@coloradohealthnetwork.org.

Finally, the mobile van for expanded outreach and linkage to care is currently being outfitted! We anticipate launching mobile outreach in Pueblo before the end of the year.

HEY 719/ACCESS POINT COLORADO SPRINGS

Manuel (he/him), SCHN Bilingual Prevention Services Coordinator, attended Fiestas Patrias in September to expand our reach into the Latinx community. He shared valuable information about Prevention, including testing and harm reduction services with more than 195 people who visited the SCHN booth. Narcan and fentanyl test strips were distributed to interested community members.

Hey719 will be the host for a not-so-scary Halloween event on Saturday, October 28 from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a costume contest, pumpkin decorating, prizes, and free testing! Come by and take care of your sexual health and spooky season needs! Hey719 is located at 2230 W. Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

Access Point Colorado Springs registered 116 new participants in September! The syringe access program is busier than ever with the addition in July of Wednesday mobile services at Westside Cares.

PrEP navigations are being offered in-house again in both English and Spanish, courtesy of Manuel.

PUEBLO PREVENTION/ACCESS POINT PUEBLO

Access Point Pueblo served more than 900 unique participants in August and had nearly 1,500 visits—record numbers for the program. Pueblo prevention continues to expand testing services with a continued presence at the CSU-Pueblo Wolfpack Wellness Center. Testing continues in the SCHN Pueblo office and walk-in testing occurs during syringe access hours.

SCHN Pueblo prevention will be the host for a fall impact-driven resource fair on Wednesday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pueblo office. The fair will be impact-driven again with haircuts, hot food and cold weather gear available.

We are working on integrating phlebotomy and tentatively will host HeyDenver the week of the resource fair to cross train on testing with syringe access participants. We will also be working with WCHN prevention staff and prevention leadership to develop and implement mail-based harm reduction which will be low barrier and available to anyone throughout the southeast region of Colorado.

HEALTH ACCESS UPDATE

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Open Enrollment (OE) is swiftly approaching. Our statewide team is training to complete almost 875 enrollments from November 1st-January 15th. If you're a client who has already been enrolled into an insurance plan by Health Access, it is imperative that you schedule an appointment before December 15th to meet with a Health Access Program Coordinator to secure insurance coverage for 2024.

OE is also the only time in the year that folks can purchase dental or vision insurance without a special enrollment period. The final cut off for insurance coverage that begins January 1st is December 15th, so please do not delay responding to emails, calls, or letters from your Health Access Program Coordinator-Kelly, Tabitha, or Carly.

Undocumented Coloradans can enroll into creditable coverage on Colorado Connect. Like last year, the OmniSalud program will offer \$0 premium plans to qualifying applicants with income below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). These \$0 premium plans are limited to the first 10,000 qualifying applicants. Health Access is NOT prioritizing taking these slots for our clients, in preference to reserve them to prevention clients or other folks who don't have programmatic support with ADAP. If you have questions about the OmniSalud program, for a partner for example, please don't hesitate to reach out to a Health Access staff member if you would like more information.

Robert Guerrero (he/him/his), New Prevention Services Coordinator at SCHN Pueblo

I'm very excited to be with CHN having been involved with various mutual aid, harm reduction, and human services positions over the last 10 years. I was previously working with Salvation Army as an operations coordinator for Denver's temporary AR/PA shelters. I also have a solid 5 years of bartending under my belt. For hobbies, I love curling up with a good history book, and I'm always game to hit around on the tennis court.



UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSURES FOR SCHN OFFICES

- Thanksgiving Day & Day After Thanksgiving: November 23-24, 2023
- Half Day, Noon to 5 p.m. on December 22, 2023
- Christmas Day: December 25, 2023
- Half Day, Noon to 5 p.m. on December 29, 2023
- New Year's Day: January 1, 2024

Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them.

Tuesday & Thursday,
10:00am-12:00pm
1:30pm-4:00pm



Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter!

Are you interested in receiving the Positive Press through e-mail? If so, please contact your Case Manager to be added to our e-mail list! You'll get the newest Positive Press at the moment its published!



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