

FACT SHEET

What is it?

The American Lung Association in Colorado is fighting for cleaner air by providing \$900,000 in vouchers to help replace or retrofit old wood and coal stove appliances with new, efficient, EPA-certified appliances. Residents and businesses of Boulder, Denver, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld counties that use older wood or coal burning heating appliances for primary or significant heat are eligible for a rebate of \$400-\$3,000, depending on the type of replacement appliance and income level. Vouchers in the amount of \$3,000 will be available for low-income residents in the counties listed above.

Eligible Replacement Appliances

This program will replace or retrofit inefficient, higher-polluting wood-burning or coal appliances with cleaner burning, more energy-efficient heating appliances and technologies. Specifically, the following replacement scenarios are eligible and are referred to collectively as “Eligible Replacement Appliances”:

- Replacing older hydronic heaters with EPA-certified hydronic heaters, or with EPA-certified wood stoves, other cleaner burning, more energy-efficient hearth appliances (e.g. wood pellet, gas, or propane appliances), or EPA Energy Star qualified heating appliances.
- Replacing non-EPA-certified wood stoves with EPA-certified wood stoves or cleaner-burning, more energy-efficient appliances
- Replacing or retrofitting wood-burning fireplaces with EPA Phase II qualified retrofit devices or cleaner-burning natural gas fireplaces.

Why?

Many Coloradans depend on wood and coal as a primary source of heat, but many of these appliances in operation today are inefficient and emit unnecessary levels of toxic air pollutants, like particulate matter and other ozone precursors. The fine particles in smoke – also called fine particle pollution or PM2.5 – can get deep into the lungs, harming the lungs, blood vessels and heart. People with heart, vascular or lung disease, older adults and children are the most at risk. [Learn more](#) about the health effects of PM2.5.

New wood, natural gas, and pellet stoves are much more efficient and are regulated by the EPA to control emissions, so a natural gas, propane, or EPA-certified wood-burning appliance bought today is typically much cleaner-burning and releases fewer harmful air pollutants and carcinogens. By replacing older wood burning appliances with gas stoves or EPA-certified wood burning appliances, residents will save money and improve their health, while the rest of us benefit from safer air.

Save money by saving lives

- Improve outdoor air quality and public health
- Save money by burning energy more efficiently
- Improve family lung health by reducing indoor air pollution by 70%

How it works

Qualifying residents will submit a voucher application to the American Lung Association in Colorado (ALAC). If the application is approved, the voucher is valid for 6 weeks, and in that time the approved resident will bring the voucher to a participating retailer to determine the type of Eligible Replacement Appliance they would like. After the appliance and any required up-fits are determined, the retailer (or their certified installer) will work with the resident to determine the voucher amount and complete the installation. The voucher acts as a sort of 'coupon', discounting the new appliance unit or installation immediately for the resident at point of purchase. After sale and installation, it is then the retailer's responsibility to submit the voucher and all qualifying documentation to ALAC for payment.

Voucher amounts

Depending on a voucher recipient's specific needs at their residence and/or low income qualified status, five types of vouchers will be provided:

1. \$400 toward the purchase of an EPA Phase II qualified retrofit device or cleaner-burning natural gas fireplace
2. \$750 toward the purchase of an EPA certified wood stove Eligible Replacement Appliance*
3. \$1,000 toward the purchase of an EPA-certified wood stove meeting 2020 Step 2 emission limits Eligible Replacement Appliance*
4. \$1,500 toward the purchase of a natural gas, propane, or EPA certified wood pellet Eligible Replacement Appliance*
5. \$3,000 for the full replacement of an existing appliance (installation and new appliance costs) in low-income households
 - a. Low income status will be determined by proof of current participation in the following programs
 - i. Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
 - ii. Energy Outreach Colorado
 - iii. Medicaid
 - iv. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Food Program
 - v. Income eligibility based on the prior year's federal or state income tax statement (if available)

*Refer to the 'Eligible Replacement Appliances' section

Am I eligible?

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a resident of Boulder, Denver, Jefferson, Larimer, or Weld county
 - a. Renters do qualify for a voucher, but proof of landlord's approval must be provided and the stove must remain with the residence, not the renter, if the renter leaves.
2. Must use a non-EPA certified wood stove, hydronic heater, or other hearth appliance as a significant or primary source of heat in primary residence (no secondary or vacation homes are eligible) or frequently used non-residential buildings (e.g., churches, greenhouses, schools).
3. Agree to turn in non-EPA certified appliance to a participating retailer and replace it with a new natural gas or propane stove or EPA Certified wood-stove or wood-pellet appliance.
4. Have the stove professionally installed by a participating retailer who will assure that the installation meets all appropriate building and safety codes and that the appliance is installed according to the appliance manufacturer's owners/installation manual (no do-it-yourself installations).
5. Must enter into a purchase and sale agreement with a participating retailer prior to the expiration of the voucher (a 6 week period). The new appliance does NOT have to be installed within that timeframe.
6. Limit of one voucher per household
7. Must fully complete a voucher application form including a photo of the existing appliance and any documentation required if applying for the income qualified voucher.
 - a. To prove low income status, documentation should be a copy of your current Medicaid card, or a copy of an official letter certifying that you are currently participating in the LEAP, WIC, or Energy Outreach Colorado programs.
 - b. Income eligibility may also be based on the prior year's federal or state income tax statement (if available).

How do I apply?

Complete the voucher application form in its entirety, which can be found at [online](#). Application instructions are at the beginning of the voucher application, and voucher approval or denial should be received within four weeks of submission. After voucher approval, recipient will have 6 weeks to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with a participating retailer.

Please submit applications directly to the American Lung Association in Colorado via e-mail or physical mail:

Britt Coyne

bcoyne@lungs.org

5600 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Suite 100

Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Website resources

Here is a list of the resources available online:

Voucher Application

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Voucher Tracking Form (for retailer/installer only)