

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LARIMER COUNTY
GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO:

Section 1. Repeal and Reenactment: The Larimer County Ordinance entitled “Ordinance Establishing Larimer County General Assistance Program” dated December 15, 1981, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with this Ordinance No. 10062015O001.

Section 2. Authority: Section 30-17-101, *et. seq.* C.R.S. 1973, as amended, provides that each county may provide temporary general assistance to the poor who reside in the county or to transients. If such provision is made, the county may provide eligible participants with such relief as, in the judgment of the board of county commissioners, is needed. If a temporary general assistance program is undertaken, the board of county commissioners, by ordinance, shall establish standards and guidelines for determining who is eligible to receive temporary general assistance, what types of assistance shall be offered, what amounts of assistance shall be paid, and for what periods of time such assistance shall be offered. The board of county commissioners, upon undertaking a temporary general assistance program, shall establish a temporary general assistance account for the purpose of providing money for the temporary general assistance program in the county; and the board shall appropriate money for such account for such purpose. In no event shall payment of temporary general assistance benefits exceed, in the aggregate, the appropriation made by the board of county commissioners for the temporary general assistance account.

Section 3. Purpose: The Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County, Colorado, kinds and declares that it would be beneficial to the people of Larimer County to undertake a temporary general assistance program for the indigent and disadvantaged in Larimer County pursuant to the standards and guidelines set out in this Ordinance.

Section 4. Scope of Ordinance: This Ordinance shall apply within both the incorporated and the unincorporated territory of Larimer County, Colorado.

Section 5. Program Established: The Larimer County General Assistance Program (“Program”) is hereby established to meet certain temporary emergency needs of persons that cannot be met by Federal or State categorical assistance programs. The Program may also provide assistance not otherwise available to categorical participants.

Section 6. Administration: The Program shall be administered by the Larimer County Department of Human Services (“Department”). The Department is authorized to develop Purchase of Services contracts with other community entities as needed to carry out the Program.

Section 7. General Rules:

1. Whenever possible, the Department shall undertake to recover from Program participants monies paid to or on behalf of the participant from Program funds.
2. Program participants shall pay a portion of the cost of needed benefits whenever possible as determined by the Department.
3. Payments for benefits shall be made by the Department directly to the vendor unless the Department determines that a direct payment to the Program participant is justified or necessary.
4. Program benefits shall be available to Program participants regardless of the participant's race, color, national origin, creed, religion, age, gender or disability.
5. The Department may withhold benefits pending receipt or verification of information or completion of documents, forms or other Program requirements, including those that may be necessary to determine eligibility for the Program and ensure that the participant has applied for available benefits from other agencies or resources.
6. Benefits shall be provided only after the Program participant has completed and submitted to the Department all required forms and has obtained all other required approvals.
7. Approvals for benefits for Program participants shall be subject to Larimer County's Department of Human Services standard purchasing approval limits except applications made by participants who are employees of Larimer County. Applications for Larimer County employees must be submitted to the Director or the Director's designee for an approval or denial decision.
8. A written statement must be obtained from the Department Fraud and Recovery unit verifying the status of the participant's previous accounts.
9. Third requests for benefits submitted by a family or individual within a calendar year must be approved in writing by both a Department Unit Supervisor and Department Division Manager.

Section 8. Available Benefits:

1. General Assistance Benefits

The following benefits are available to individuals and families who meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section 10.

Larimer County Residents
Food

Non-County Residents
Food

Transportation/Gasoline/
 Vehicle Repairs
 Rent/House Payments/Lodging
 Prescription Medications
 Medical Needs
 Medical Aids
 Dental Care
 Clothing
 Work Related Supplies
 Burial

Transportation/Gasoline/
 Vehicle Repairs
 Lodging
 Prescription Medications
 Emergent Medical Needs

 Clothing
 Burial

2. Larimer County Residents are defined as: Individuals who the Department determines live in incorporated or unincorporated Larimer County based on information available to the Department. Persons need not have established a permanent dwelling nor have a fixed mailing address in Larimer County to be considered a Larimer County Resident. Non-County Residents are defined as: Individuals who the Department determines do not live in incorporated or unincorporated Larimer County based on information available to the Department.

Section 9. Benefit Amounts and Restrictions:

1. Food. Benefits shall be provided according to the table below and are limited to seven days for Larimer County Residents and four days for Non-County residents.

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Benefit Per Day</u>
1 Person	\$5.00
2 Persons	\$7.50
3 Persons	\$10.00
4 Persons	\$12.50
5 Persons	\$14.00

For households with more than 5 persons an additional \$1.00 per day shall be allowed for each person. These amounts will be adjusted annually based on the Federal Food Stamp allotment tables.

2. Rent/House Payments/Lodging: For Larimer County Residents, benefits shall be paid only upon written threat of eviction or in order to establish a household. Payments are limited to no more than one month in a 12-month period. Program funds may be used to pay security deposits, if necessary, but must be repaid to the Department. Lodging for Non-County Residents will be provided by the local Salvation Army agency.

3. Utilities. Benefits shall be paid only if the Program participant has received a written notice of shut-off from the utility provider, if necessitated by a medical condition, or if necessary to establish a household. Payments are limited to no more than two

months in any 12-month period, No utilities for heat shall be paid if LEAP benefits are available.

4. Transportation/Gasoline/Vehicle Repairs: For Larimer County Residents, benefits may be paid for transportation or gasoline costs for work purposes, medical care or protective services. For Non-County Residents, benefits may be paid for public transportation toward place of origin or gasoline and repairs. Benefits for Non-County Residents are limited to one time per family per year.

5. Medication. Benefits shall be provided only upon verification of a prescription. Benefits are limited to one time in any 12-month period.

6. Medical. Benefits shall be provided only for a medical emergency. No benefits shall be paid for hospital costs.

7. Dental. Benefits shall be limited to emergency care, dentures and denture work when the Department determines that such care is necessary to obtain or continue employment or that lack of such care would cause serious, irreparable health problems.

8. Medical Aids. Benefits for aids such as eyeglasses and hearing aids may be provided if lack of such aids would cause serious, irreparable health problems, would pose a danger for the Program participant or society, or if lack of such aids would prevent employment or continuation of employment.

9. Burial. Benefits shall be limited to Larimer County provided burial space and fees for burial preparation. Burial and perpetual care must fall within state regulations.

10. Clothing. Benefits shall be limited to specialized clothing that is necessary for health or work purposes.

10. Work Related Supplies. Benefits shall be limited to those items that would allow the Program participant to obtain or continue employment. Benefits are limited to \$50.00 per person in any 12-month period.

11. Special needs that may impact health, safety, prevent homelessness or institutionalization shall be considered for payment on a case by case basis.

Section 10. Eligibility:

1. Exhaustion of Other Resources. Program participants must have exhausted all available sources of assistance and resources to meet their needs prior to being awarded Program benefits. These sources of assistance and resources include public and private agency assistance, aid from other family members, and real and personal property assets. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following resources are specifically exempt from this requirement:

- a. A home if occupied by the Program participant and if equity is insufficient to obtain a loan.
- b. Minimum adequate furniture and household equipment that is used by the Program participant and is essential to daily living.
- c. Necessary wearing apparel.
- d. Policies for burial
- e. One motor vehicle
- f. Tools necessary for employment.

2. Residency. For Larimer County Resident benefits, the Program participant must be a Larimer County Resident as defined in Section 8(2) at the time of application for benefits. There is no length of residency requirement.

3. Income. All income available to the Program participant and his/her household must be considered in determining Program eligibility. A Non-Public Assistance household must have a net income at or below 130% of the Federal poverty standard. "Net Income" is defined as income available to the household after mandatory deductions are made. Public Assistance households are exempt from income eligibility requirements.

4. Household Composition. Any person who can be claimed by another household or person for tax or insurance purposes shall be considered a dependant of that household.

5. Employability. Employable individuals with dependents under 18 years of age or with disabled dependents are eligible, if otherwise eligible for Program benefits, and provided that such individuals search for employment, be registered with the Larimer County Workforce Center and accept employment that is offered. Individuals who are sufficiently healthy, physically and mentally, to be employed, and who have no dependents under 18 years of age and no disabled dependents are not eligible for Program benefits.

Section 11. Application: Any person applying for Program benefits shall complete and submit to the Department the required application and forms prior to an award of benefits. The Department may verify any information in the application and forms. Applicants shall cooperate with the Department in verifying such information.

Section 12. Exceptions: The Director of the Department or his/her designee may authorize exceptions to the requirements of this Ordinance for good cause provided such authorization is in writing and signed by the Director or his/her designee.

Section 13. Appropriation: The award of any and all benefits under this Ordinance is solely within the discretion of Larimer County. No person shall have an entitlement to such benefits. The total of all benefits provided during any County fiscal year shall be limited to the funds budgeted and appropriated for the Program by the Board of County Commissioners. The amounts of benefits specified in this Ordinance may be reduced by

the Department during any fiscal year to ensure that benefits do not exceed the amount budgeted and appropriated.

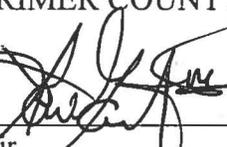
Section 14. Severability: Should any section, clause, sentence, or part of this Ordinance be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect, impair or invalidate the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 15. Reimbursement: Any participant who obtains Program benefits by negligently or willfully giving false information on the required application or other forms, shall be required to reimburse Larimer County for such benefits upon demand. Any participant who obtains Program benefits may be required to reimburse Lancer County for such benefits pursuant to Section 7(1) or as otherwise required in this ordinance. If a participant fails to reimburse the County upon demand, the County may assert its claim for reimbursement in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 16. Publication Or and Effective Date: Following its adoption, this Ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation for Larimer County once by title only with the date of the initial publication and containing any section, subsection or paragraph of the Ordinance which was amended following the initial publication and shall take effect thirty (30) days after the date of the publication in said newspaper.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted on the 6 day of October, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

By: 
Chair

ATTESTATION:

I Craig Dorn, Larimer County Clerk/Deputy Clerk attest that the foregoing Ordinance Establishing the Larimer County General Assistance Program was read at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and has been published in full in a newspaper of general circulation for Larimer County at least ten (10) days prior to the date of its adoption in compliance with Section 30-15-406 C.R.S. 1973, as amended.



[SEAL]


Larimer County Clerk/Deputy Clerk