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## **Arapahoe County invites low income seniors to help spend \$70,000 'Caring Touch' funds**

*Human Services to help pay for senior health and personal care expenses until funds run out*

**Aurora, Colo.** Arapahoe County Department of Human Services has approximately \$70,000 in 'Caring Touch' funds available to pay for personal care and health-related expenses for eligible, low income seniors. The funds were awarded to Arapahoe County by the Denver Regional Council of Governments and have been allocated by the County's Human Services Department for the following services:

- Personal care, including in-home assistance with bathing and dispensing medications;
- Homemaker services, including grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning and laundry;
- Dental health assistance, including exams and dentures;
- Vision services, including exams, lenses and frames; and,
- Hearing services, including hearing aid and battery replacements.

"We're excited for this opportunity to provide immediate financial relief to our low income seniors for expenses that other programs—including Medicaid—don't cover," said Brian Field, Human Services Director. "Arapahoe County already provides assistance to more than 3,600 seniors in need, and we know there are many more out there who may qualify."

The 'Caring Touch' funds will be available until June 30, 2004, or until the money is exhausted—whichever is sooner. Arapahoe County has teamed up with numerous local health and personal care service providers in its effort to assist low income seniors with unmet care needs and expenses.

"Working with local providers enables us to leverage these funds and assist more seniors by putting our money to work immediately, without red tape, to deliver services to our seniors faster," said Field. "We're thrilled at the positive response we've had from providers within our community."

### **How to apply**

Interested applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Seniors must reside in Arapahoe County and be at least 60 years old;
- Individual senior annual net income should not exceed around \$8,900 per year (\$12,100 per year for couples);

- Seniors must provide proof of income, with a bank statement, for example; and,
- Seniors must have a genuine need for assistance with personal care or health-related expenses that are not covered by other programs, including Medicaid, Old Age Pension, and Aid to Needy Disabled.

Eligible seniors are welcome to apply in person at either of the following Arapahoe County locations:

**CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Ave., Aurora, CO 80012**

**1690 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton, CO 80120**

or, they can contact Carolyn Kirkendoll, at 303-636-1448, for assistance if they cannot apply in person. Family members may apply on behalf of eligible seniors.

For more information on how to apply for Arapahoe County's 'Caring Touch' funds, contact Mary Snavlin, 303-636-1458; Brian Field, 303-636-1899; or Carol Saile, 303-636-2074.

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