

US States News

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'CLIFF EFFECT' IN COLORADO

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Pitkin County issued the following news release:

The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO), an organization committed to ensuring the self-sufficiency of women and girls in Colorado, today announced it will hold a public policy briefing on Friday, September 19, 2008 at the Pitkin County Health and Human Services Bldg, 405 Castle Creek Road, Aspen, Colorado from 11:30-2:00.

The briefing will discuss the following:

- * In Pitkin County, a single parent with one infant and one preschooler needs \$71,491 annually to simply make ends meet in the community (Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute **Self Sufficiency Standard** 2008). Implications to these salary requirements for low-income families will be discussed.
- * "Work Support" benefits, such as earned income tax credits and childcare assistance, can help families close the gap between low earnings and the cost of basic expenses. But these benefits often terminate abruptly when a family's income exceeds eligibility limits - leaving the working parent no better off, or worse off, than before. This is called the "cliff".
- * Nan Sundeen will discuss the innovative programs of Pitkin County that help to mitigate the "cliff effect" for some public supports.

The briefing will feature a presentation of The Foundation's 2007 Cliff Effect study by Jody Camp, Director of Programs at The Women's Foundation of Colorado. Local context and comments will be made by Nan Sundeen, Health and Human Services Director of Pitkin County.

"The Foundation has spent the past year disseminating these important cliff effect results around the state", Camp stated. "Pitkin County is one of the best practice models as it has explored creative ways to mitigate the cliff for its community members."

The Women's Foundation of Colorado Think Big. Be Bold. Make Change. This is The Women's Foundation of Colorado's 20th anniversary mission. Since 1987, The WFCO has invested millions in nonprofit organizations throughout the state to dramatically change the lives of Colorado's women and girls. Through research, education, advocacy and collaboration, The WFCO sets the agenda and leads systemic change, creating greater opportunities for women and girls to succeed in the 21st century economy. The goal of the foundation is for every woman in Colorado is economically self-sufficient, and every girl in

Colorado is on the path to economic self-sufficiency in adulthood. We believe that changes in public policy will have the greatest impact in assisting women in their efforts to achieve economic self-sufficiency. For more information visit www.wfco.org or call 303-285-2960.

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