



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204 Fax: 970-352-0242
1150 O St., P.O. Box 758, Greeley, CO 80632

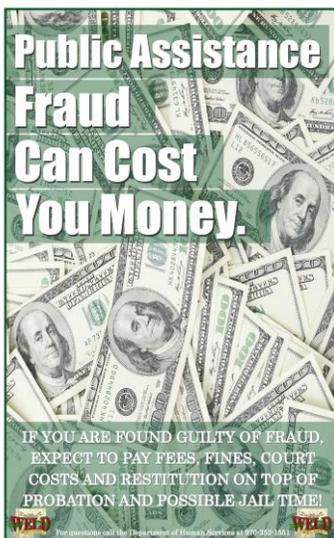
NEWS RELEASE

Date: 2/24/15

Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

WELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES EDUCATES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FRAUD

WELD COUNTY, CO – With support from the Weld County Board of Commissioners, the Department of Human Services and the Public Assistance Fraud Investigative Team launched a year-long educational campaign to inform recipients of public assistance about the consequences of committing fraud. The campaign will include informational posters, brochures, social media posts and videos.



The purpose of public assistance is to provide aid for families in need, but when it is used improperly the public assistance fraud investigative team steps in.

Public assistance fraud can be committed in multiple ways the most prevalent of which is lying on an application and/or other paperwork submitted for assistance. For example, falsely reporting the number of adults living in the household, claiming to have children in the home who do not actually live there or not listing all sources of income is fraudulent. And of course, applying for assistance using someone else's information is not only fraudulent it is identity theft.

“Our job as investigators is to make sure that tax payer money is properly utilized by families who qualify for public assistance,” said Mark Magnuson, Investigations Manager for the Weld County Department of Human Services. “We are here to help, but we also need to ensure that we are protecting the integrity of the public assistance program.”

Magnuson and his team of five Investigators average between 35 and 40 active investigations each at any given time, and there are always more referrals.

Investigators receive referrals from Eligibility Technicians processing applications and, at times, from community members directly. They also receive information from employers and landlords.

“After the campaign is over, we look forward to reviewing the results to measure the reduction in public assistance fraud,” said Commissioner Julie Cozad, Coordinator for the Department of Human Services. “Our staff at Human Services works hard to ensure public assistance money is going to eligible people and we are hopeful this educational campaign will reduce the number of people committing fraud.”

In 2014, Weld County Public Assistance Fraud Investigators established over \$1.3 million in wrongfully issued public assistance money.

For more information about assistance programs or to report public assistance fraud, visit the Department of Human Services page on the Weld County website, www.weldgov.com.

###

Leading with responsive, innovative and cost effective services. Weld County – Proud to be Debt Free since 2007!

Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)