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Loveland residents: provide input to improve COLT bus system

The Youth Advisory Commission (YAC), a group of high school students who advocate for youth interests to City Council, embarked on a bus adventure last fall when they set out to learn about the City of Loveland Transit System (COLT), with the goal of making the system more efficient, effective and user-



friendly for kids and adults alike. To further research, YAC developed a brief, 5-question survey to gain information from Loveland residents about their awareness of, and experiences with COLT and they need your help! The [survey](#) will be available through February 2.

Free tax resource materials from the Piton Foundation

Tax Credits for Working Families Public Information Campaign raises awareness about free tax site locations and the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. The federal **EITC** can return up to \$6,318 back into the hands of hard-working families and is recognized as one of the nation's leading anti-poverty tools.



No-cost printed educational materials (in English and Spanish) can be ordered or downloaded [online](#) by creating an account, adding resources to cart and completing order. Contact **Brooke Visser, 303-454-3735** with questions.

Important Changes to the Larimer County Works Program-January 2018

New Initiative! Connect with Skillful



Is the lack of a college degree preventing you from obtaining employment?

Skillful is a new skills-based, online platform that values people's skills, not just degrees, and supports lifelong learning in today's rapidly changing economy. Job seekers can now use Skillful to connect to employers with well-paying jobs and educators who can help them acquire new skills and advance their careers.

[Click here](#) to check out the Skillful website and learn about the benefits this program has to offer.

Two important changes to the Larimer County Works Program will begin January 1, 2018.



Change #1:

We will no longer close cases because of expired roadmap plans. To receive cash assistance all participants must have an updated Roadmap, work on the goals identified in the Roadmap, and continue to actively participate in the program.

You are at risk of losing your cash assistance if you:

- 1) Do not update your Roadmap, or
- 2) Are not working toward any of the goals in your Roadmap, or
- 3) Tell us that you will not participate in the program.

You will receive a letter from your coach offering you a chance to resolve the identified issue(s) and the deadline for fixing them. To keep your case from closing you must fix the issue(s) by the date stated in the letter.

However, if you fail to fix the issue(s), then:

- Your cash assistance will close for one entire month,
- Your child care will close, and
- You will need to reapply if you would like to receive TANF cash assistance.

NOTE: If you are employed, it is likely that you will not be eligible for cash assistance or child care should you choose to reapply.

Change #2:

If you are working toward some (but not all) of the goals on your Roadmap plan, you will be offered a chance to resolve the issue(s) by the deadline listed in a letter your coach will send to you.

You can then work with your coach to resolve the issue(s) and continue to receive your cash assistance OR choose not to take advantage of this opportunity and receive a sanction on your cash assistance. A sanction will reduce or stop your cash assistance anywhere from 25% to 100% for up to three months. Call your coach for more information.

Other important information:

Unforeseen, unusual or unavoidable circumstances that prevent you

from being able to engage in your Roadmap plan can be grounds for good cause. Good cause requests are determined on a case-by-case basis and should be submitted in writing to your coach. You may be asked for verification of the reason for your good cause request. If good cause is granted, your cash benefits will not be reduced.

Most importantly, we want to work in partnership with you to develop a plan that supports you to achieve goals that are important to you and your family. **Staying in communication with your coach and actively working toward the goals and activities on your Roadmap can prevent sanctions and case closures.**

Please contact your coach if you have any questions about these changes.

Monthly Time Sheet (MTS) Online

Monthly Time Sheets will no longer be mailed. All Monthly Time Sheets (MTS) should now be submitted via the **"My Journey to Success"**. This new **portal** is easy to use! If you do experience problems--call your coach with questions or tips and instructions.

The top 5 reasons to submit your MTS online:

- The paper Monthly Time Sheet (MTS) is no longer available.
- Over 60% of our customers are already using the online MTS.
- The majority of our customers report that the online MTS is easier than the paper MTS.

UNSURE HOW THE ONLINE MTS WORKS?

- Call your coach to ask questions and get tips and instructions.

PROBLEMS SUBMITTING?

- Call 498-6663 to get help or leave a message 24/7.

Watch for: Text messaging...coming soon to a phone near you!!

The LCWC is now active on Social Media!

The LCWC has created a **Facebook** and **Twitter** page to best highlight our Career Services. Please **click here** to follow us on Facebook and **here** for Twitter to receive updates and notifications of job search tips, daily connecting Colorado job postings, hiring events, workshops, helpful job search articles, and more!



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