Job loss following a cancer diagnosis can compound the hardships faced by members of our communities, as it did for this senior couple in Dumont. Their manufactured home was a high energy user with an old furnace—only 63% efficient—delivering more heated air to the outside rather than inside. A sewer leak and an incorrectly vented water heater also presented serious health and safety concerns. The improvements made to this home through weatherization helped these seniors stay in their home by reducing household energy costs and addressing health and safety issues.

“I can’t say enough about how wonderful this program is. You have helped my family so much. About a year ago, my husband was diagnosed with aggressive cancer. We haven’t been able to work as his care is daily. So this has been a miracle for my family. You’re not only professional in what you do but your hearts are awesome in how much you care for people in need. Thank you so much.”

—Dumont weatherization services recipient

Dumont Participant Qualification: Colorado Old Age Pension

Weatherization Service Provider: Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

Weatherization Completed: October 2017

Energy Conservation Measures: air sealing, attic & crawl space insulation, high-efficiency furnace, ENERGY STAR refrigerator, replacement window and storm windows, LED lighting

Health & Safety Measures: carbon monoxide mitigation, dryer venting, sewer leak repair

Improvements:

- Air leakage reduced by 45%
- Attic insulation improved R11 to R46
- Crawl space insulation improved R0 to R19
- Furnace replaced—efficiency increased 63% to 95%
- Refrigerator replaced—usage reduced 1570 kwh to 370 kwh
- Replacement window and 5 storm windows installed
- $150/year saved on wood fuel for heating (none needed after weatherization services)

Energy Savings:

- Gas bill decreased by 50%
- Electric bill decreased by 23%
- $150/year saved on wood fuel for heating (none needed after weatherization services)

Utility Company: Xcel Energy (Gas & Electric)

The Colorado Weatherization Assistance Program received $2,805 in rebates from program partner Xcel Energy.