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Clear Creek County First Responders Launch Blue Envelope Program

Clear Creek County is proud to announce that its law enforcement partners and first responders are now offering residents the option to opt into the Blue Envelope Program. This program aims to promote safe and effective interactions between first responders and individuals with conditions or disabilities that may impact communication such as Autism, hearing impairments, and more. This initiative helps the County's law enforcement and first responders quickly recognize when they are interacting with someone who might need extra time, patience, or accommodations. By providing an easy-to-spot symbol, the Blue Envelope materials foster trust, ensuring that every interaction is handled with greater awareness and sensitivity.

"The Blue Envelope Program is more than just a tool, it's a bridge of understanding. It empowers individuals and gives our first responders the knowledge they need to approach every situation with patience and empathy, ensuring a safer community for everyone," Community Crisis and Health Assistance Team (CCHAT) Director Elizabeth Gallagher said.

There is no signup or personal information gathered for this program. Simply swing by a location, pick up your materials, add them to your vehicle or belongings, and you are a part of the program.

Items

These items are available to the public completely free of charge! You can choose any or all of these items to use as a simple way for yourself, friends, or family members to be identified by first responders as someone who may have communication challenges. The available items are the Blue Envelope, the Blue Envelope sticker, and a seatbelt cover to be offered at a later date.

Locations

You can pick up these materials at the following locations: the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office, the Clear Creek County Clerk and Recorder, the Clear Creek County Health and Wellness Center, the Idaho Springs Police Department, and the Empire Police Department.

More about the Blue Envelope Program

The Blue Envelope Program was launched in Connecticut in 2020 and was originally designed to provide a simple solution to help drivers with communication challenges during traffic stops. It uses a bright blue envelope to hold essential documents along with clear instructions for both the driver and the officer. The program has since expanded to include materials people can have with them even when they are not driving. The program's success quickly led to its adoption across the nation, with law enforcement agencies in parts of New Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts, Arizona, San Diego, and Colorado implementing similar initiatives. These programs encourage first responders to approach identified citizens with empathy and clear communication, which helps to reduce misunderstandings and anxiety.

Below is a photo you are welcome to use in your publications.

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