



Contact

Cathy Alderman, Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer

(303) 312-9638

calderman@coloradocoalition.org

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Receives \$5 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help End Homelessness for Families in Colorado

Day 1 Families Fund grants \$96.2 million to 32 nonprofits across the country to provide shelter for children and families in need

DENVER – (November 17, 2021): Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, a statewide housing and healthcare provider for people experiencing homelessness, today announced that it has been selected to receive a \$5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. Launched in 2018 by Amazon founder and executive chair Jeff Bezos, the Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families.

"We are honored to have been selected for this grant opportunity, which provides a significant charitable contribution to address homelessness among families within Colorado," said John Parvensky, President and CEO of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. "This funding, along with our strong partnerships across the state, will allow us to help create lasting solutions to homelessness for hundreds of families who are struggling to obtain stable, affordable housing."

This one-time grant will allow the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless to improve and increase access to bridge and long-term housing for families experiencing homelessness, and to reduce the length of time families are unhoused or remain on waiting lists for family housing. This will be accomplished through an increased focus on housing navigation and landlord recruitment and retention, as well as by providing direct assistance to families to expedite housing placement. This grant will also provide assistance for families to achieve housing stability and success by overcoming barriers to permanent housing and increasing access to critical services and long-term support.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless was selected as a Day 1 Families Fund grant recipient by an independent advisory board comprised of homelessness experts with experience in policy, advocacy, racial equity, child welfare and housing and service delivery, as well as firsthand experience in homelessness.

This year, the Day 1 Families Fund issued a total of \$96.2 million in grants to 32 organizations across the country. The 2021 Day 1 Families Fund grant recipients are: ACLAMO; Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches; Alabama Rural Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.; All Chicago Making Homelessness History; AACI (Asian Americans for Community Involvement); Building Changes and Africatown International; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa; Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Covenant House Alaska; Destination: Home; Doorways; Family Life Center; Family Service League; Friends of the Family; Homeless Action Network of Detroit; Homeward; LifeMoves; Lubbock Open Door; Mesilla Valley Community of Hope; Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services; Mississippi United to End

Homelessness; Newcap, Inc.; Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA); Portland Homeless Family Solutions; Project Community Connections, Inc.; Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP); Sacramento Steps Forward; SHELTER, Inc.; Texas Homeless Network; The Link; Tri-County Community Action Agency, Inc.; and Union Station Homeless Services.

"The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless' mission is to provide lasting solutions to homelessness for families and individuals throughout the state, and this grant opportunity will go a long way in supporting and advancing that mission," said Joel Neckers, Board Chair for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. "We are grateful for this generous support, which stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of CCH's staff and leadership, who strive continually to fulfill the Coalition's mission."

The Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing non-profits that help families experiencing homelessness, and creating a network of new, non-profit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families. Since 2018, the Day 1 Families Fund has issued 130 grants totaling more than \$398 million to organizations around the country working to combat homelessness and help families gain housing support and stability. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves. Since its founding more than 30 years ago, the organization has earned state and national recognition for its integrated healthcare, housing and service programs. The Coalition's comprehensive approach addresses the causes of homelessness, as well as the consequences, offering critical assistance to over 20,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at www.coloradocoalition.org.

###