

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As advocates for social justice, the Education and Advocacy Team promotes Colorado Coalition for the Homeless' mission of preventing homelessness, increasing access to healthcare and housing, and creating pathways to greater stability by shaping public policy, building strategic community relationships, and influencing perceptions about the causes of and solutions to homelessness.

## 1 HOUSING

Housing continues to be a top priority for the Coalition. The Coalition was deeply involved in the Affordable Housing Transformational Task Force Sub-Committee and will advocate for the resulting policy recommendations including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), supportive services funding, and property conversion for transitional and long-term housing. It is critical that federal and state resources are directed toward those most in need and who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, including the lowest income individuals under 30% of area median income (AMI) and people experiencing homelessness. Improving eviction filing data collection, strengthening housing protections for veterans, and bolstering mobile home laws will also be part of the Coalition's housing strategy.

## 2 HOMELESSNESS

The Coalition is committed to growing the programs and tools that help people experiencing homelessness secure housing and remain housed successfully. The organization will advocate for the expansion of a Homeless Contribution Tax Credit (HCTC) with the goal of incentivizing donations to organizations and agencies serving people experiencing homelessness. The Coalition will also support efforts to create mechanisms and funding to support the provision of supportive housing services to individuals with mental or behavioral health issues, and who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. The Coalition will continue to monitor and engage on legislation related to criminal justice reforms, particularly as it may impact our unhoused neighbors.

## 3 HEALTH

The Coalition continues to work toward expanding access to integrated physical and mental healthcare options for Coloradans with limited resources. Recognizing that good oral health is essential to whole-body health, the Coalition will advocate for new tools to expand access to quality dental care. The Coalition will also support recommendations from the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force to increase access to, investments in, and support to critical behavioral and mental health services.

## 4 ECONOMIC STABILITY

Strengthening individuals' and families' economic security is central to the Coalition's mission. This year, the Coalition will advocate for changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Colorado Works program to reduce barriers to assistance for Colorado families. The Coalition will also support efforts to modernize Colorado's exemptions from debt collection. Exemption laws, which protect income and property from seizure by creditors, are a fundamental safeguard for families, particularly those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.