



2023 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

The Coalition will continue to prioritize investments in affordable housing development, property acquisition and conversion for transitional and long-term housing, and supportive services funding. It is critical that federal and state resources are directed toward those most in need, including the lowest income households living at or below 30% of area median income, people experiencing homelessness, communities of color that have historically faced barriers to housing stability, and those on fixed incomes. In order to keep people from falling into the cycle of homelessness, strengthening rental screening protections, improving eviction filing data collection, and streamlining eviction court proceedings will also be part of the Coalition's housing strategy.

2 HOMELESSNESS

The Coalition remains committed to expanding the programs and tools that help people experiencing homelessness secure housing and stay housed successfully. The organization will advocate for the creation of a year-round oversight committee on housing and homelessness to track the allocation and use of housing funding and make future policy recommendations. The Coalition will also support efforts to expand 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 advocate for criminal legal reforms that impact people experiencing homelessness.

3 HEALTH

Strengthening access to integrated physical and mental health care options for Coloradans with limited resources remains a top priority for the Coalition. The Coalition will support efforts to build on the advancements and learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic efforts, including extending Medicaid eligibility for those at greatest risk of losing coverage because of administrative challenges following the end of the public health emergency. Creating better access to substance use treatment and harm-reduction programs will also be central to the Coalition's work.

4 ECONOMIC STABILITY

Improving individuals' and families' economic stability is core to the Coalition's mission. The Coalition will support efforts to improve access to and value of essential public benefits. The organization will also join in efforts to mitigate the impacts of medical debt on Coloradans' economic security and ability to secure housing.