



**Immediate Release**  
**Thursday, March 16, 2023**

Cathy Alderman  
Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
303-319-9155, [calderman@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:calderman@coloradocoalition.org)

Alexis Whitham  
Director of Communications, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
970-541-9048, [awhitham@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:awhitham@coloradocoalition.org)

**The Severe Shortage of Affordable Housing in Colorado Continues to Grow —  
Families with the Lowest Incomes Suffer Most**

[The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes](#), an annual report on affordable housing shortages, was released today by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC). The report finds a national shortage of 7.3 million affordable and available rental homes for the lowest-income households. This shortage increased by 500,000 rental homes between 2019 and 2021. Nationwide, there are just 33 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 of the lowest-income renter households. Seventy-two percent of the poorest renter households are severely housing cost-burdened, spending more than half of their incomes on housing, with little left over for other basic necessities. Each and every one of these trends indicates the housing landscape has worsened significantly since last year's report.

[Here in Colorado](#), things are even more dire. There are only 26 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 households with extremely low incomes. Facing a shortage in Colorado of 124,989 affordable and available rental homes, 78% of these renters are severely housing cost-burdened, spending more than half of their incomes on housing.

Cathy Alderman, Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless added, "Year after year data show the housing crisis in Colorado is worsening. From Denver to Alamosa to Glenwood Springs, our friends, family, and neighbors are struggling to find affordable housing, or keep the housing they have when rents are raised by hundreds of dollars each year." Alderman continued: "The latest Gap report demonstrates that this crisis disproportionately impacts the poorest renter households. Strategic, long-term local, state, and federal investments are needed to combat this housing crisis, and they must be targeted to low-income households, not at middle income households with the false belief that 'all housing is good housing' and any new housing will trickle down to those who need it most."

Although the state and federal government took unprecedented actions to protect the lowest-income renters during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, those actions were temporary. Transformative changes to safety net systems in the U.S. including healthcare coverage under Medicaid, Medicare, and CHP+, SNAP (food stamps), expanded tax credits, COVID testing and care, and eviction protections have

all expired or will shortly expire. The loss of these key provisions will create a precarious environment for people with low incomes and place the most vulnerable groups at greater risk of health issues, food insecurity, and homelessness. The Coalition expects even more dire reports next year following this end to the Public Health Emergency unless immediate federal investments in affordable housing are implemented. Learn more about the end of the public health emergency in [this fact sheet](#).

Lawmakers in Colorado will be making big decisions about how to use new state funding for housing with the implementation of Proposition 123. CCH urges them to do so thoughtfully and in a way that helps those households most in need. Using very limited public funds to increase the overall housing supply without intentionally targeting resources for low-income households and people experiencing homelessness will fail to comprehensively address the housing crisis that Colorado is facing. It's never been more important for our elected officials to take decisive action to rectify the damage caused by ongoing and historical inequities, the commodification of housing, and the growing tragedy of homelessness.

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel added "In the wake of the pandemic, federal housing investments are more critical than ever for sustaining our communities and helping low-income people thrive. Yet House Republicans are now threatening to cut funding for the very programs that provide a lifeline to low-income renters. Balancing the national budget must not be done on the backs of our nation's lowest-income and most marginalized people and families."

for additional information, visit: <https://nlihc.org/gap>

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#### **About the 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, 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 22,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at [www.coloradocoalition.org](http://www.coloradocoalition.org).