



Immediate Release
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CCH Role to Change for Balance of State and Rural Partners

After over a decade as the Collaborative Applicant and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency for The Colorado Balance of State Continuum of Care (CO BoS CoC), the Colorado Coalition for the Homelessness (the Coalition or CCH) will no longer serve in the dual role following a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The Balance of State team at the Coalition will work diligently to transfer all knowledge to the new agency to ensure that the systems and services we have worked so hard to put in place will continue to function seamlessly for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness with our 53 agency partners across the 54 Balance of State Colorado counties.

Though we are disappointed in the decision, the Coalition is deeply proud of our accomplishments and of all the staff who reached major milestones over the past 10 years in this role, 23 years since the CoC was established, and over 35 years working in rural areas of Colorado. To be clear, though our role is changing, CCH remains committed to serving as a partner to our Balance of State partners and rural service providers and to creating lasting solutions for people experiencing homelessness throughout the state of Colorado.

Some the Coalition's Accomplishments:

- Creation of and effective operation of the Colorado HMIS system which centralizes client data across organizations combatting homelessness and implementing a fully operational regional Coordinated Entry system within HMIS to better connect people experiencing homelessness with housing resources;
- In the past five years, CCH worked with Balance of State Partners to create a detailed strategic plan, better defined regions and coordinated entry systems, a BoS specific brand and logo, and improved communications plans and strategies;
- Participation in Built for Zero, a movement and methodology designed by Community Solutions to help communities reach functional zero in homelessness for targeted populations;
- Presenting a road map for rural communities implementing Coordinated Entry as a model for success at the National Human Services Data Consortium;
- Receiving funding for all Colorado Balance of State proposals for the Annual CoC Notice of funding Opportunities (NOFO). This year, these were funded for a total of \$2,465,355, of which CCH administers \$1,215,034 to subgrantees;
- Additional funding CCH guided into the BoS in recent years including:

- Supplemental NOFO opportunities, including \$1.6M for unsheltered homelessness in rural areas.
- \$2.9M in funding for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP), which has the goal of ending homelessness for youth populations in rural areas.
- \$1.8M in awarded, administered, or facilitated funding for ESG dollars to BoS partners.
- In 2018-2021, the Coalition worked with many BoS partners to hold seven public forums on affordable housing across the state, including El Paso County, Grand/Jackson Counties, Morgan County, Lake County, Gunnison County, La Plata County, and the San Luis Valley. Together, we strengthened the network of statewide and local service providers and advocates; shifted attitudes around housing, homelessness, and health; explored policy ideas to address housing needs; and jumpstarted thinking about how to utilize new federal and state funding.

Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer Cathy Alderman added “Though we are incredibly disappointed that the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless will no longer be the lead BoS agency, we look forward to continuing advocacy efforts statewide and fighting for resolutions to prevent and resolve homelessness for all Coloradans. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the CCH staff who have led these efforts and are impacted by this decision.”

Some of the ways the Coalition will remain committed to work throughout rural Colorado include:

- Continued administration of over \$1.2 million in several HUD funded Rural Initiatives projects with sub grantee nonprofit agencies serving homeless individuals across the state. Agencies include Loaves and Fishes in Fremont County, Catholic Charities Western Slope in Garfield County, Posada in Pueblo County, Housing Solutions of the Southwest in La Plata County, Advocates Against Domestic Assault in Las Animas County, Bright Futures in Eagle County, SHARE in Morgan County, and HELP in Logan County.
- Operating the Health Disparities and Community Grant Program (HDCGP) through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Partners in the Western Slope and NE Plains focus on creating community-led policies and systems change development plans at the local level.
- Utilizing more than \$4 million of the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to subgrant to rural homeless service providers with a focus on filling gaps in rural homelessness. Funds provide housing navigation, landlord recruitment and incentives, housing stability case management, housing assistance and client needs. The funding is scheduled to last 5 years.
- Continuing to operate Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community, which provides recovery oriented transitional housing to people experiencing homelessness statewide in Bent County, Colorado. The program combines housing with peer support, and educational, vocational, and employment services for up to 250 people currently or formally experiencing homelessness from across the state.

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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.