Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Reopens Renovated Forum Apartments, Denver Permanent Supportive Housing Property Originally Opened in 1996

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is proud to announce the reopening of the Forum Apartments with significant renovations and improvements. The Forum Apartments was one of the first permanent supportive housing facilities in Denver, and the recipient of the 1997 Significant Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Originally constructed in the 1960s, the property at 250 W 14th Ave was used as a University of Denver law school facility. In 1995, the City of Denver conveyed the building to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless for $10, with the agreement that the building would be redeveloped into 100 units of long-term affordable supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness. More than twenty-five years after welcoming its first residents, the Coalition has been able to breathe new life into the building through re-syndication of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit as well as gap funding from state and local partners. Major capital and infrastructure improvements include a new roof, new elevators, and modernization of the building’s heating and cooling systems from steam to all electric.

In addition, updates were made to improve the living experience of the Forum’s 100 residents, 65% of whom are seniors. The property now features a renovated community room, a new lobby and community space, and an expanded office space that allows for additional case managers and residential services managers onsite. All units are reserved for use by individuals making 40% or less of the area median income.

Upgrades were also made to individual units including new appliances, high-efficiency heat pumps, cabinets, countertops, and low flow plumbing fixtures. Throughout the construction, which lasted 10 months, residents were asked to be flexible as units were updated on a rolling floor-by-floor basis. On Tuesday, May 30, a reopening party was hosted for residents as a thank you for their partnership and a celebration of the completed work. A video showcasing the Forum upgrades and the resident appreciation event is located here.

Funders and partners for the Forum Apartments renovation include: Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA), City and County of Denver Department of Housing Stability (HOST), City and County of Denver Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency (CASR), Colorado Division of Housing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), National Affordable Housing Trust (NAHT), PNC Bank, Wells Fargo, FHLB Dallas, ej architecture, Centerre Construction, Group 14, and Revival Development Services.
The Forum is one of 21 buildings owned and managed by the Colorado Coalition for the homeless. On any given night, the Coalition houses over 4,500 individuals through permanent supportive housing and other housing programs. The Coalition is also currently working on upgrades to the Renaissance Off Broadway Lofts, located at 2135 Stout Street, and a full conversion of the former Clarion Inn, located at 200 W. 48th Ave, into Renewal Village, a 215-room facility that will feature transitional and supportive housing with an emphasis on residential care. Renewal Village is expected to open in early 2024.

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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, 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.coloradocohalition.org.